

 29 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

Judge tells ex-lawmaker to hire his own private lawyer. » PAGE 7

Ogumoro's motion to have charges dismissed denied. » PAGE 22

Hafa Adai!

Happy Thanksgiving

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

CUC violating travel rules—OPA

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been found to be non-compliant with the law and established policies governing travel, based on the preliminary results of an initial survey conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor.

See CUC on Page 1

» One board member gets repeat travel advances despite failing to clear outstanding advances

PSS blocked from CDBG ‘until further notice’

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

‘Casino not in violation of smoking law’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. maintained yesterday that it has not

disallowed the Public School System from applying for future Community Development Block Grant effective immediately.

NMHC said it will not accept any future CDBG funding applications from See PSS on Page 4

See CASINO on Page 4

ENCOUNTERED COUPLES

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter graduates 26 new couples at its Fall 2015 Weekend, which took place from Nov. 20 to 22 at the Kanoa Resort. The mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, emphasizes the importance of communication between husband and wife.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



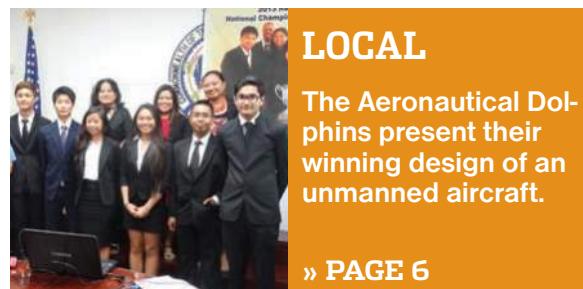
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LOCAL

A Chinese writer who became homeless on Saipan is back with her family in China.

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LOCAL

The Aeronautical Dolphins present their winning design of an unmanned aircraft.

» PAGE 6



LIFE & STYLE

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is staging a musical production of White Christmas.

» PAGE 20



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wildlifeactionplan@cnmidfw.com
664-6017

Local

Thanksgiving sans the hassle

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Here are some Thanksgiving options your wallet will be thankful for:

AQUA RESORT CLUB

The Costa Terrace Restaurant is throwing a Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet from 11am to 2pm, featuring a roasted turkey, pumpkin pie and popular holiday staples. The day also includes raffle giveaways you don't want to miss out on. It's \$26 for adults and \$15 for children. For reservations, call 322-1234.

KANOA RESORT

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SAIPAN WORLD RESORT

Buffet World is offering a brunch option that is hard to resist. From 11am to 2pm, endless champagne, wine, juices, coffee, tea, beer, and live entertainment will be available. Get a chance to win raffle prizes from Coca-Cola and World Resort. Adults are priced at \$30 and kids from ages 6-11 are \$15. Reserve now by calling 234-5900.

FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN

Looking for turkey, pecan pie,

bottomless champagne, beer, and wine? World Café is offering brunch from 11am to 2pm priced at \$32. If you prefer something later in the day, a seafood and roast beef dinner buffet with bottomless beer starts at 6pm for \$28. You can also check out Mai Teppanyaki for a \$34 saba set menu and a \$38 gindara set menu. Call 233-6414 or 483-0462 to reserve a table.

OTHER OPTIONS

Looking for a drink and live entertainment only?

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See THANKSGIVING on Page 4



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AFTER BEING HOMELESS ON SAIPAN FOR 2 YEARS Chinese writer finally reunites with family in China



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Businessman Ta Bun Kuy, left, and Chinese Association of Saipan staff Owen Li, right, send off Chinese writer Lina Sun at the Saipan International Airport on Monday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lina Sun, right, reunites with her brother and sister at the airport in Xiamen City, China on Monday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Chinese writer who became homeless on Saipan for two years after being stricken with mental illness has now recovered and is back with her family in Fujian Province, China.

Despite her illness, Lina Sun, 43, managed to survive on the island with the help of many members of the Chinese community and other people.

Sun was treated at the psychiatric ward of the Commonwealth Health Center. With her mental condition finally improving, she called former Chinese Association of Saipan president Ta Bun Kuy two weeks ago, saying she wanted to go home.

Ta and Chinese Association of Saipan staff Owen Ji provided assistance, contacted Sun's family in China, and then sent her off at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on Monday at 2am.

Later that night on Monday, Ta and Ji received photos via email showing Sun finally meeting her family at an airport in China.

"She looked very happy and

sequently taken to CHC, where she received treatment.

When Sun contacted Ta two weeks ago to express her desire to go home, Ji said they contacted the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles about her passport and then her family in China about her plane ticket. The family purchased the plane ticket.

Ji said their director and Ta visited Sun at CHC and brought her luggage, clothing, and food.

They also gave her some cash, with additional contributions from some CHC nurses and other staff.

Ta and Ji then accompanied

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Sun to the airport on Monday for her flight.

Ta said it was Immigration that gave Sun her passport at

the airport.

Sun was reunited with her brother and sister at the airport in Xiamen City.

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for He is good; His love endures forever."

-1 Chronicles 16:34



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CHCC has a new acting CFO

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-

DIZON

frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

A new acting chief financial officer has been appointed for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CASINO

From Page 1

exudes secondhand smoke into prohibited areas beyond the casino's gaming floor.

Best Sunshine lawyer Viola Alepuyo assured yesterday her client is concerned with the health of its patrons and have ongoing and planned "mitigating actions" to address the secondhand smoke emanating from the casino floor. These actions include "air curtain walls" at entrances to the Hard Rock Café and T Galleria, a new exhaust system, and air quality control tests.

She also maintained—citing public law definitions of "enclosed areas" and the law that exempts gaming floors from the smoking ban—that her client is in full compliance with the law.

"The law in my mind is clear," she told reporters yesterday.

She reiterated her Monday letter to the Commonwealth Casino Commission that the law requires departure terminals to be "self-contained" and ventilated in order to be exempt from smoking bans.

"That's not the same requirement for the casino," she added.

She also said the legislative intent is clear. Citing committee reports, she said lawmakers intended an exemption for "fully enclosed well ventilated areas of departure terminals at the airport—and casinos."

CUC

From Page 1

In a Nov. 3, 2015, letter to CUC board chair Adelina Roberto, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, OPA said it is communicating the preliminary results of the survey to the board "due to violations and weaknesses found in travel" and is giving the board time to make corrective action.

OPA told CUC to provide a plan of action by Nov. 16. However, CUC has yet to submit any such plan.

In a phone interview yesterday, CUC chief legal counsel James Sirok said they haven't submitted a plan of action but they are in communication with OPA.

"We have communicated with them already on this," Sirok said.

OPA raised five points in its initial survey results, the first of which is that the board adopted travel rules that are inconsistent with the law.

It stated that during an official

The appointment of Eran Sheriff, Ph.D., was announced in a memorandum issued by CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna on Nov. 23.

"He's actually hired as a finance officer but he's acting CFO now," Muna said in an interview.

"They didn't say 'fully enclosed areas of the casino.' They just said 'and the casino,' the gaming area of the casino," she said, referring to Public Law 16-46.

According to Alepuyo, if an adverse agency action or notice of violation from the Division of Public Health is issued, they could appeal that through the Administrative Procedures Act through hearings, and if there were still disagreement, take it to court.

"How far will my client go? I don't know. That's a decision they will have to make—but each step of the way, the client will be kept advised of everything that is happening so they can make a decision," she said.

Ineffective

On Tuesday, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials delivered a letter to Alepuyo, citing smoking prohibitions in the law and the dangers of secondhand smoke. The hospital is tasked with the enforcement of Public Law 16-46 or the Smoke-free Air Act of 2008 since it replaced the Department of Public Health.

"We have received reports that patrons of your establishment are smoking indoors in violation of the Act," the letter, signed by CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, said.

Muña said the premises of the casino would be inspected within the next 10 days. Inter-

According to Sheriff, Sheriff started Monday.

The memo said that Sheriff has "an extensive education and experience in finance that would be a tremendous and much needed asset to our organization" and that he will be act-

ing CFO "until further notice."

With regards to being a full CFO, Muna said, "We'll see."

"I'm hoping that he will stay

for a long time. I think he's going to stay here for a long time," Muna said.

The last CFO for CHCC was Jack Taitague who came onboard the hospital on June 2 last year. However, he resigned

barely three months into the job.

The hospital hasn't had a permanent CFO since Alvaro Santos resigned in 2012.

Cora Ada, who held the acting position for over a year now, will be returning and focusing on her main responsibility as project coordinator for the Hospital and Public Preparedness Program.

The memo thanked Ada for taking the helm as the acting and interim CFO and noting that she went out of her way, above and beyond her role and responsibilities.

Frances Pangelinan, who also helped with the position, will be returning to the management of Accounts Payable and Federal Grant reporting.

cally, you have an opportunity to fix it," Muña said.

Under the law, violators are penalized not exceeding \$200 for a first violation, \$300 for a second, and \$500 for succeeding violations, which could lead to the suspension or revocation of a corporation's business license.

"We're giving them an opportunity to understand that they are not in compliance and that we would do an inspection if they will not fix and that's where the citation starts," she said.

She added that they are also following due process that's why it took them a while to respond.

"I understand the frustration of the public but we want to make sure that we give them the due process. Obviously somebody had allowed them to build it like that, and to plan it that way and design it that way. Now we're here to say that, no you're not [allowed], and basi-

Working together

In an interview, Muña said they are giving an opportunity for Best Sunshine to be in compliance.

"We're giving them an opportunity to understand that they are not in compliance and that we would do an inspection if they will not fix and that's where the citation starts," she said.

"We will work with Public Health to have their input on when and how much to test," she added.

The busiest hours at the cas-

ino are from 10pm to 10:30pm,

according to Tao Xing, Best Sunshine's chief services of-

ficer.

On the new exhaust system, Alepuyo said the shipment arrived yesterday morning. She said the existing exhaust could suck out more air if replaced by a bigger model. The system would bring air out through the kitchen exhaust.

Alepuyo said, they also or-

dered three air curtains.

Yesterday, one air curtain was

already installed at the casino entrance into the T Galleria, and the other two would be installed last night near the Hard Rock Café area.

Even before the equipment's arrival, the casino has been fab-

ricating frames for the air cur-

tains, she said.

A casino director of logistics

and property management, who

was present during the inter-

view, said the airflow could be

adjusted to be made stronger.

PSS

From Page 1

PSS "until further notice."

In a letter addressed to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, NMHC said the move was "due to the entity's non-compliance with CDBG requirements with its previous projects."

CDBG funds are allocated to the housing corporation by the U.S. Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Among the PSS projects that the housing corporation has issues with was "the loss of MHS Building J collateral equipment funded back in 2008 and the failure to construct the Saipan Southern High School swimming pool funded in 2013."

According to NMHC deputy director Zenie Mafnas, the Marianas High School project cost about \$173,000 in CDBG funds. During an inventory check in 2010 that was part of their monitoring, NMHC was unable to find equipment such as laptops, desktops, projectors, and chairs. These missing items amount to \$69,000.

The amount for the Saipan Southern swimming pool, on the other hand, is about \$16,000.

Mafnas said PSS would have to reimburse NMHC for what it

reimbursed HUD.

"These two items resulted in a reimbursement of CDBG funds to HUD. PSS has placed the CNMI at risk of losing CDBG grant funding due to its inability to adhere to grant requirements," the letter, signed by corporate director Jesse Palacios, said.

The letter further states that PSS has been non-cooperative despite NMHC's efforts to give it enough time to submit all the necessary project documentation.

It also stated that the conditions in the agreements between NMHC and PSS have been disregarded.

"NMHC cannot afford to lose CDBG funding because of a subrecipient's failure to meet grant requirements. As we all know, there is a need for community planning and development projects in the CNMI, which will benefit the entire community, most especially the children and youth, and NMHC must enforce its monitoring efforts and adhere to HUD's CDBG's program rules and regulations in order to continue the implementation of the CDBG program in the CNMI," the letter said.

The housing agency noted that they will continue to monitor current CDBG-funded projects of PSS.

THANKSGIVING

From Page 2

be providing entertaining for the day.

If you'd rather do some shopping instead, don't forget to check out our full listing of Black Friday deals as well.

For Thanksgiving, Joeten Ace Hardware on Saipan will be hav-

ing a sale from 1pm to 5pm on Nov. 26 with other sales from 2pm to 6pm on Nov. 27 and 8pm to 12pm on Nov. 28 featuring 25-percent off on furniture, Whirlpool appliances, power and hand tools, painting tools, pet supplies, cleaning supplies and housewares. Air compressors, generators and garden power tools are 15-percent off and chain saws are 15-percent off as well.

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Award-winning Aeronautical Dolphins impress Torres

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins, champions of the national 2015 Real World Design Challenge, presented on Capital Hill Tuesday their award-winning design of an unmanned aircraft that they said would efficiently spray pesticide on crops while reducing the risks of chemical-related illnesses, wildlife loss, and harm to water quality. Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said he came away from the presentation impressed.

"I was speechless with their success," Torres said. "Especially, with our situation here with [Typhoon] Soudelor and the commitment" they showed to the project. "I am actually really excited for their future. They built their friendship, camaraderie with each other, which brings not just Marianas High School to a whole new level but also the whole CNMI. I can't wait to see what's up with them next," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The MHS team worked year-round to complete the winning design that they said could help address food shortage scenarios come 2050, when the world's population is expected to be at about 9 billion people.

Nine billion means 2 billion-plus more mouths to feed, or a minimum increase of about 70 percent of the population, team members said.

Project manager Ann Margaret Norcio told Inos administration officials that the team spent late nights at local cafes as they had to find ways to work on the project without power or Internet following Typhoon Soudelor.

Raulerson said when they were announced as the overall winner, the "whole room went crazy" and students went knocking on other teachers' rooms to share the news.

He said only the state of Kansas has won the competition twice. The MHS teams join that list after winning the national competition in 2013.

"Here we are in the middle of the ocean and we won it twice. I think these kids deserve to see the president of the United States," Raulerson said, to much applause.

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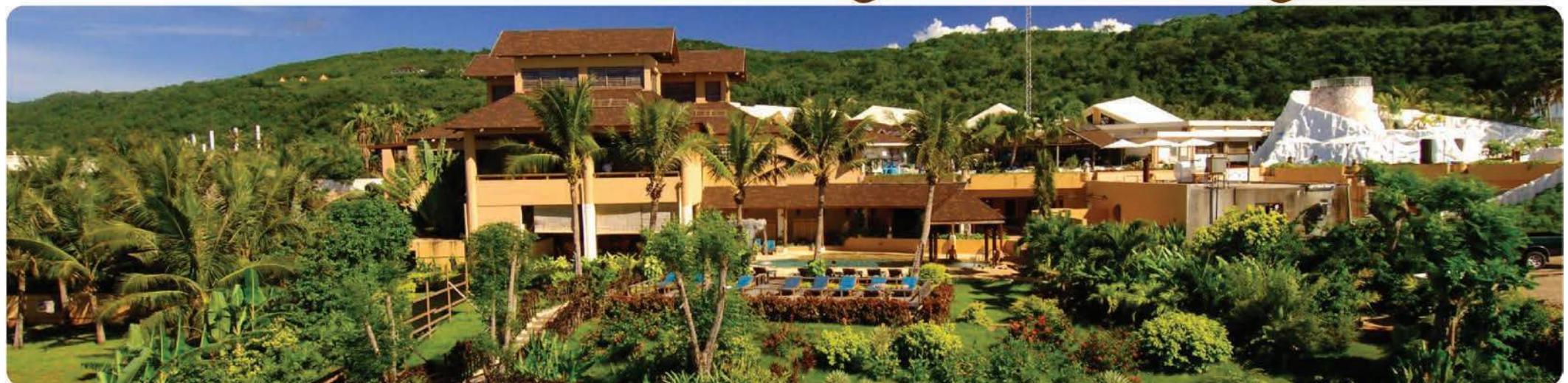
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Happy Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends to be together and appreciate all of the blessings they have, no matter how large or small.

The staff and family of Kan Pacific Saipan are grateful and appreciative to the people of the CNMI for their support.

We hope all of you enjoy a safe and peaceful Thanksgiving.

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Serving the CNMI for 37 Years



From the Management and Staff of
Saipan Tribune
 THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Limited hours for NMI Judiciary this Friday

On Friday, Nov. 27, 2015, the

Guma Hustisia on Saipan will have limited hours of operation from 7:30am to 11:30am only.

Essential services in the Offices of the Clerk of Court, the Marshal Service Division, and Judicial Chambers will be provided. Minimal staff will be designated to address docket requirements, emergency, and related prescheduled matters. The Administrative Services Unit (Casher), Information Systems Unit, Building & Maintenance, Office of the Commonwealth Recorders, Law Revision Commission, and the Judiciary Administrative Office will be closed

all day.

On Rota and Tinian, the courthouses will be closed all day.

Non-essential personnel shall be placed on administrative leave. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 29, 2015. For additional information or assistance, contact Patrick V. Diaz, CNMI Superior Court Clerk of Court, at telephone number (670) 236-9766 or email Patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp; or Deanna M. Ogo, CNMI Supreme Court Clerk of Court, at telephone number (670) 236-9718 or email Deanna.manglona@justice.gov.mp. (NMI Judiciary)

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps will

conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Nov. 30, from noon to 7pm
- Dec. 2, from 10am to 11pm
- Dec. 3, from 2-11pm
- Dec. 4-5, from 2-9pm
- Dec. 6, from 2-10pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 2, from 7pm to 11pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour opera-

tors, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of air-space that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (JRM)

Thanksgiving

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Republican candidates are exploiting a crisis

"The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is about. Islam is peace."

—President George W. Bush, Sept. 17, 2001

With recovery personnel still digging through the smoldering rubble of the World Trade Center and the horrifying shock of the 9/11 attacks still reverberating, George W. Bush took a moment to remind Americans of the enemy: not Muslims, but homicidal fanatics claiming to act in the name of Islam.

Bush knew there was no incompatibility between Republican ideals and the faith practiced by upward of 2 million Americans. In 2000, according to a poll conducted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Bush got 72 percent of the Muslim vote.

How things have changed. This year, the two candidates leading in polls of GOP voters are Donald Trump and Ben Carson, both of whom seem intent on making sure no Muslim would ever consider voting Republican.

Last week, Trump called for "surveillance of certain mosques," and later seemed to indicate he favored a federal database to monitor Muslims. As for Syrian refugees he has said, "If I win, they're going back." But he outdid himself in recalling the reaction in New Jersey, after the 9/11 attacks, when "thousands and thousands of people were cheering as that building was coming down."

There was no evidence to support that claim, and the police commissioner of Paterson, N.J., which has almost 30,000 Muslims, rebutted Trump: "That is patently false. That never happened."

This was a perfect opportunity for Trump's rivals to reject fear-mongering. But Carson, who had earlier said he couldn't accept a Muslim as president, insisted that he too had seen the footage Trump mentioned. Nor was Chris Christie, who happens to be governor of New Jersey, willing to challenge Trump. "I think if it had happened, I would remember it," he said limply, "but, you know, there could be things I forgot too."

Trump and Carson are not alone in their pandering. Christie said he wouldn't accept Syrian refugees even if they are "orphans under 5." Ted Cruz favors admitting only Syrian refugees who are Christians, and Jeb Bush sounded sympathetic to the idea.

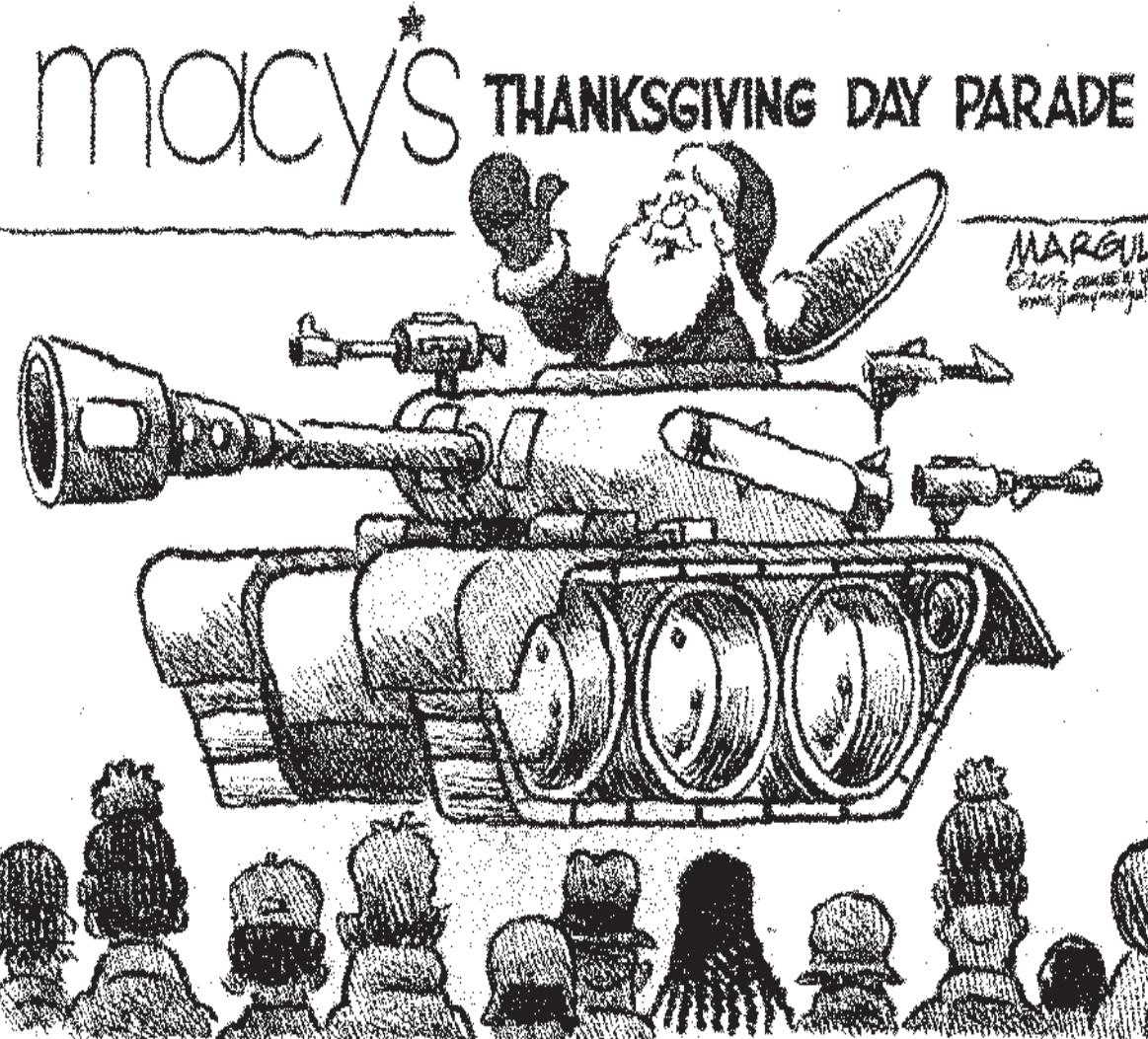
Fortunately, some of those in the race have taken a more sober view. John Kasich firmly dismissed registering Muslims or refusing non-Christian refugees. Rand Paul said he opposed a registry and any special surveillance of mosques. Marco Rubio noted that most mosques "have nothing to do with radical Islam."

The Paris attacks and the alarming rise of the Islamic State have sparked understandable fear among Americans.

It doesn't help that some Democrats affect glib disdain for the legitimate alarm. Martin O'Malley raised the prospect of "fascism" taking over. President Barack Obama engaged in partisan taunting. "Now they're worried about 3-year-old orphans," he sniped. "That doesn't sound very tough to me."

Democrats, starting with the president, need to address the widespread anxiety. But, even worse, some Republican candidates are irresponsibly exploiting it. Crises such as these are the moments when real leadership has a chance to emerge. So far, there's been too little of it.

(c)2015 Chicago Tribune



A 9/11 model for France

The wisdom of the U.S. decision to keep troops in Afghanistan on a semi-permanent basis will be long debated. What is beyond debate is the brilliance of the post-9/11 invasion, which holds lessons for the French people following the massacres of Nov. 13 in Paris and the similarly appalling loss of life in the former French colony of Mali on Nov. 20.

After 9/11, instead of opting for the kind of knee-jerk bombings that had too often been ordered by the Clinton administration after al-Qaida attacks against U.S. embassies and the destroyer Cole, the Bush administration (or, more truthfully, the Department of Defense led by Donald Rumsfeld) moved carefully, devising one of the more innovative military campaigns in modern American history.

There was almost an eeriness about the U.S. global response in the days after 9/11. We saw none of the usual attempts at immediate vengeful gratification—the path France has chosen to satisfy the demands of its rightfully outraged people. Instead, the Defense Department embodied an attitude that essentially said, "We will choose the time and place of our reprisal; and it will be fearsome." Initially, al-Qaida leaders took this as a sign that America had been struck so badly that it could not muster a coherent response. Far from it.

Ordered to go after al-Qaida's bases and target its leaders in Afghanistan, the leader of U.S. Central Command, Gen. Tommy Franks, came back to Rumsfeld saying that he could be ready to invade in six months. Understandably exasperated, Rumsfeld replied, "I want men on the ground now!"

But this did not mean a conventional force, much less massive airstrikes.

Instead, a plan was devised to insert U.S. special forces and intelligence units into Afghanistan within days of the 9/11 attacks. These units established contact with anti-Taliban and anti-al-Qaida groups and tribes among the Afghan people, most notably the collection known as the Northern Alliance. The images of these brave Americans at work are now familiar: bearded and riding horseback beside their Afghan allies, they moved about the country, precisely identifying targets to be struck by American air power.

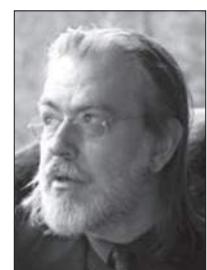
This process went on for several weeks, until the United States formally launched Operation Enduring Freedom on Oct. 7. Only then did we see the extent to which patient and dangerous groundwork had paid off. Perhaps the most notable images were of our delighted Afghan partners watching in awe as the U.S. Air Force—notoriously the most imprecise of American military arms—actually hit the targets it was supposed to, which had been laser "painted" by our men on the ground.

The action won for the U.S. an enormous store of faith among Afghans; and although that store was soon to be squandered by

By CALEB CARR

Los Angeles Times

Caleb Carr, author of *The Lessons of Terror: A History of Warfare Against Civilians*, is a military historian who frequently writes and lectures on matters of military and security policy, particularly terrorism. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



George W. Bush's foolhardy attempt (later repeated with even more disastrous results in Iraq) to occupy and "democratize" Afghanistan, that squandering must not obscure the brilliance of the attack itself.

That attack is what the French armed forces must adopt as a model. As we have seen, France has many citizens that can pass in and out of Syria; this can be used to France's advantage. France ought to quietly embed special forces troops of Muslim background into those sectors of Islamic State-contested Syria that still contain large numbers of displaced but not yet refugee citizens. These troops could join or replace small groups of U.S. special forces, who are less ideally suited by background to the work at hand. Their courage bolstered, Syrian dissenters will prove willing guides, pointing out where French missile strikes should fall and where an eventual French conventional action might take place, should that ever prove wise.

This is France's fight, first and foremost. The Islamic State has made it so. In addition, France has a long history in both Mali and Syria as a colonial power, usually an unhappy one, as Islamic State-inspired operatives remember only too well. For example, in the aftermath of the World War I, when French Gen. Henri Gouraud took formal control of Damascus from the British, he went to the tomb of Saladin (the great Muslim victor over the Christians in the Third Crusade) and stupidly announced, "Saladin, we have returned. My presence here consecrates victory of the Cross over the Crescent."

Unlike most Western young people, young Muslims have a very informed and vivid historical awareness: The bewilderment of so many commentators as to why France should have been selected for the Nov. 13 attacks is in itself bewildering. But France, if it now remembers the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan (and omits the subsequent mistake of trying to maintain a long-term military presence in that country) can undo much of the damage done by its past actions.

This will mean immediately suspending bombing missions in favor of patience, deliberateness and cunning. These are the weapons that France's enemies are displaying, and they must be answered in kind.

Tutuhon Ha'anen Gupot

Pa'gu na ha'ane tutuhon tiempun gupot Noche Buena ni kinenduse halom ni selebrasion Thanksgiving. Este na dinan'a familia ma'gas na okasion. Tutuhon selebrasion yan pre-parasion finatton Noche Buena gi tanu' mañgilisyanu siha.

Iha'ane sumen dañkulu signifikasionala gi todur tanu' mañgilisyanu kontodou iya Marianas. Dispues de senan Thanksgiving Day, tana'fan listu hit umabiba kompliaños i Niño Jesus yan ta chahlaugue' 'nai mattu gi gima'ta yan bendision gi ha'anen Noche Buena.

Todu lokue' prumepara siha para i Misan Gayu gi pueñgen Noche Buena. Mañaunau hit umabiba i finatton i Niño Jesus.

Tradision relihion i tanu' i mana'lilik' i Niño gi gima' i tautau-ta siha. I finattofa un' espesiat na momentu mana'en agradesimientu pot todur bendision-ta dispues ta gagauague' nu i bendisioñna para i nueblo na sakan. Sumen namagof i a'gañg na kantan famaguon siha ni tumatitiye i Niño para kada guma' gi señgsoñg siha.

Estague' lokue na okasion 'nai mafattu manmahahañg-ta nu ayu siha na manguinaiya-ta i esta manhanau para i deskanson niha 'sino mangaige gi chagu' tanu'. Enfin ta tayuyute siha felis noche buena.

Huñgan, hu hahassu tatte 'nai mandikiki' ham haf sessu bida gi bespiran noche buena. Gaige ha' ayu na siñiente i luhan 'sino chathinassu pot kulan guaha para u fattu bisita ni tita tuñgu'. Kasi oppan este gi memegaña na tautau piot ya inatisa ni guaifon yan maneñgheñg na mañglu Disiembre.

Hu hahassu tatte 'nai manmangagau hit bendision para todur. Esta na'tañges ayu na patte i "Jesus, Yuus mame, gi nuebu na sakan, gai ase' nu hame, apatta i daño, na'e ni deskanso i mangaige 'sta gi naftan yan

ayu seha kasu matai na sakan". Nuebu i sakan 'nai tatuthon ta'lu dinuebu kareta.

Pueñgen Noche Buena

Dispues de senan familia, estaba i lahihu 'nai in' repasa signifikasionala pueñgen Noche Buena. In' hassu estorian i biblia na ni uno malagu' sumede si Santa Maria dumeskatga i patgon Yuus gi halom gima' niha gi enteru siudan iya Bethlehem?

Ma-usune para i chagu' hogsu' estake masoda' un' liyañg ga'ga'. Ayu 'nai mafañagu si Jesus i lahen Yuus. Mapega gi un' establon ni mahafye sakaten ga'ga' dispues matampe ni un' pidason magagu.

Gi hilu' ayu na liyañg establa un' ma'lag pution ni umi' ina enteru siuda. Todur i tanu' lokue' lumi'e' malag ayu na luseru. Espesiat na noche sa' todur guinife yan esperansan tautau mammakomple sin tension. Para i maneñgheñg pueñgen mamatkilu i Niño kulan kinilu.

Pople na familia lau ma-aksepta estau niha. Mampos sumen nama'aggem i hinimidden dos saina gi siniñgon haf' guaha 'nai makonduse halom i lahen Yuus. 'An hita mohon sumusede guaha kampu para ta suñgon pinadese gi te'ug na maneñgheñg pueñgen gi halom liyañg ga'ga?

Sensian hinimidle yan minesñgon finenina hafanu'e' si Santa Maria yan San Jose gi pueñgen Noche Buena. Ayu 'nai matutuhon preparasion hinanau Jesus para u chogue che'chu' Yuus Tata.

■ ■ ■

Guaha 'nai ta huñgog masañgan "kulau kinilu" pot sensian satton na hinimidle. Era, i kinilu na ga'ga' achog un' sesi' agagaña para un' apprubecha sen ti umuguñg. Matai papa' sin kumate pat umuguñg. Ginen ennau 'nai malagnos ekspressiun "kulau kinilu". Todur silensi!

Preparasion

Todu i señgsoñg duru i tautau mana'gasgas lugat niha prepara-

sion para ha'anen Noche Buena. Matutuhon gipot familia siha gi bespiran Noche Buena. Gi sigiente dia tanañga finatton i Niño ni tinatitiye ni kantot siha. Sumen namagof i famaguon-ta ni dumalalag i makone' Niño para i gima' i tautau siha 'nai duru mañganta sunidun Noche Buena. Animu i manla-amku' ni kumonduduse este na bisita gi gima' tautau-ta siha.

Gi tiempon antigüa, estague' na ha'ane 'nai todur ramientan gualu' manmapo'lu papa' pot para u fañaunau gi selebrasion mafañagu i Niño Jesus. Mauleg na deskansu yan inatienden finatton i Saina. Mañgiñge' i patgon Yuus ya seguruyu' na manmangagau lokue' bendision niha mas mauleg na kinisecha gi otru sakan yan menos iran pagyu.

I tradision Noche Buena makilili' lagu American nu i tautau-ta. Siha lokue' mandaña gi selebrasion un' ma'gas na okasion. Manmamatinas ya dispues de fina' boka sige pa'gu mañganta kantan Noche Buena ginen i tano'ta. Estague' 'nai anog na siña un' lagnos i tautau ginen Noche Buena lau ti un' lagnos i Noche Buena ginen anten natibu. Satton na dinaña'!

■ ■ ■
'An mattu este na okasion 'nai manadiseha hit todur felis pasguan Noche Buena. Gi bespiran año nuebu manadiseha dinuebu gi entre yan halom familia.

How to defeat the Islamic State

The "Islamic" identity of the Islamic State has understandably attracted a lot of notice. There is no question that it is a fanatical group with a twisted religious ideology at the core of its identity. And it is the appeal of that ideology, along with the sheer thrill of adventure, that leads foreigners—in the summer, one estimate was 1,000 a month—to go to Iraq and Syria to join its ranks. It is also responsible, of course, for motivating terrorists to carry out the mass shootings and bombings in Paris, the bombing of a Russian Metrojet airliner and suicide bombings in Beirut.

But the Islamic State has another identity as well, one that is more important for those who actually live under its "caliphate." It is a Sunni Arab supremacist group that champions perceived Sunni Arab interests against those of Kurds (who are also Sunnis), Shiites, Alawites, Turkmen and other ethnic and religious groups in Iraq and Syria. Those interests are as much political and ethnic as they are religious.

All of this helps explain why so many former Baathists—predominantly Sunni Arabs—are so prominent in its ranks, especially members of Saddam Hussein's intelligence services. They see the Islamic State as the best way to reassert their traditional dominance in Iraq, which they lost with Hussein's downfall. In Syria, Sunnis were sidelined even earlier, with the rise in 1971 of Hafez Assad, father of current dictator Bashar Assad, who, under the cloak of Syria's own Baathist party, instituted de facto rule by his extended family, all Alawites (an offshoot of Shiite Islam).

The Sunni ethnic identity is both a source of strength for the Islamic State and a potentially fatal weakness, if it can be properly exploited.

The record of the last couple of years is pretty clear: The Islamic State can take and hold only Sunni Arab areas. It has not been able to advance into the Shiite heartland of Iraq or the Alawite heartland of Syria. And when it overstretches and tries to hold Kurdish, Shiite or Yazidi areas, it can be pushed back.

That has happened in northern Syria, where the Kurds have wrested away the town of Kobani from Islamic State control, as well as in northern Iraq, where a force of Yazidis and Kurds backed by U.S. air power recently retook the town of Sinjar.

But the Islamic State's hold on Raqqah, in Syria, and Mosul, Ramadi and other cities in Iraq has not been shaken. They are primarily populated by Sunni Arabs (admittedly with a large Kurdish minority in Mosul) who see the Islamic State's rule as a better alternative than domination by vengeful Alawite or Shiite militias backed by Iran.

Those forces and their Iranian backers, which constitute the most powerful armed forces in both Iraq and Syria, appear to understand this. Despite endless American prodding, the Iraqi security forces and Shiite militias have been in no hurry to recapture Ramadi or Mosul because they know they can't hold those cities. The Kurds understand it as well, which is why they are not marching into Ramadi or Raqqah either, and if they march

into Mosul, it would trigger a terrible backlash among the Sunni majority there.

These realities mean that the fall of Sinjar at the hands of the Kurds, however welcome, does not signal the coming defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and beyond. The only way that will be accomplished is by mobilizing Sunni Arabs to rise up against it as they rose up against its predecessor, al-Qaida, in Iraq in 2007.

And that won't happen unless the U.S. and its allies offer Sunnis some assurance that they will not be trading the tyranny of the Islamic State for the tyranny of Shiite rule.

In Iraq, Sunnis need to be offered a Sunni regional government, akin to the Kurdish regional government, with its autonomy protected by its own militia and ultimately guaranteed by the United States. If Baghdad won't go along, the U.S. should bypass Baghdad and directly arm and train the Sunni tribes. In Syria, Sunnis need to be offered a future in which they won't be terrorized by Assad and Shiite militias.

In other words, the U.S. needs to make clear its intent to topple Assad along with the Islamic State. Declaring no-fly zones to ground Assad's air force and safe zones to limit his forces from ad-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Whatever the outcome, funding is assured

Our Pacific Air Forces team had the great privilege of meeting with the people of the CNMI during two recent public meetings. We want to thank everybody who participated and offered questions or comments. Every time our team has traveled to your islands and met with officials and the public we have gained better insight into your history, culture, and concerns.

The Air Force proposal to establish a divert and exercise location within CNMI, begun five years ago, is complex. The Department of Defense is obligated to meet a high standard to ensure the interests of all stakeholders are considered. Thus, we continue to be committed to full transparency in our planning efforts and welcome every opportunity to answer questions and address public concerns.

Close consultation with CNMI officials and the general public, as well as CPA Resolution 14-02, has led to the reduced scope you see in our recently released Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS). You spoke and we listened. For those concerned about noise impacts, we removed fighter aircraft and their associated munitions from the proposal. For those who believe Tinian should be the focus of Air Force development, we have created a "Hybrid" alternative that limits infrastructure improvements on Saipan to three projects, relocating the majority of investment and exercise activity to Tinian. This Hybrid alternative combines benefits of our other two alternatives; Saipan-only and Tinian only. In fact, under the Hybrid alternative Tinian would see practically the same infrastructure improvements that would be executed under a

By MAX BOOT

Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times' opinion section, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present Day.



vancing into Sunni areas would be a good start.

Until that happens, the U.S. can continue to chip away at the edges of the Islamic State, backing Kurdish offensives in Iraq and Syria and dropping bombs on terrorists like Jihadi John. But it won't defeat the Islamic State, which, as the attacks from Paris to Sharm el Sheikh prove, is becoming increasingly dangerous. This is an evil that cannot, contrary to what President Barack Obama says, be contained. It must be defeated. And the only way to do that is to turn Sunni Arabs—their popular base—against it.

"Tinian-only" alternative. The net effect is a smaller footprint on Saipan and improvements to both islands, while still meeting our core requirements.

Several recent news articles have raised doubts about funding for Divert-related projects if the Air Force selects Tinian for development. We can assure you the Divert and Exercise initiative will remain a priority at the highest levels of the Department of Defense, regardless of the outcome of the RDEIS process. When the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, makes a decision—Saipan-only, Tinian-only, or the Hybrid—we expect the Department of Defense will request funding from Congress for all applicable projects.

Thank you again for the feedback and participation in the public meetings. It is very important to us to get this right. We look forward to reviewing all comments provided to ensure our alternatives mitigate or eliminate any potential impacts to the CNMI. The Air Force has a responsibility to maintain resilient operations throughout the Pacific to support our allies and partners. We feel our alternatives meet that responsibility while respecting the islands you call home. We look forward to continued cooperation with all stakeholders and to our next trip to CNMI.

Col. Mike Cardoza

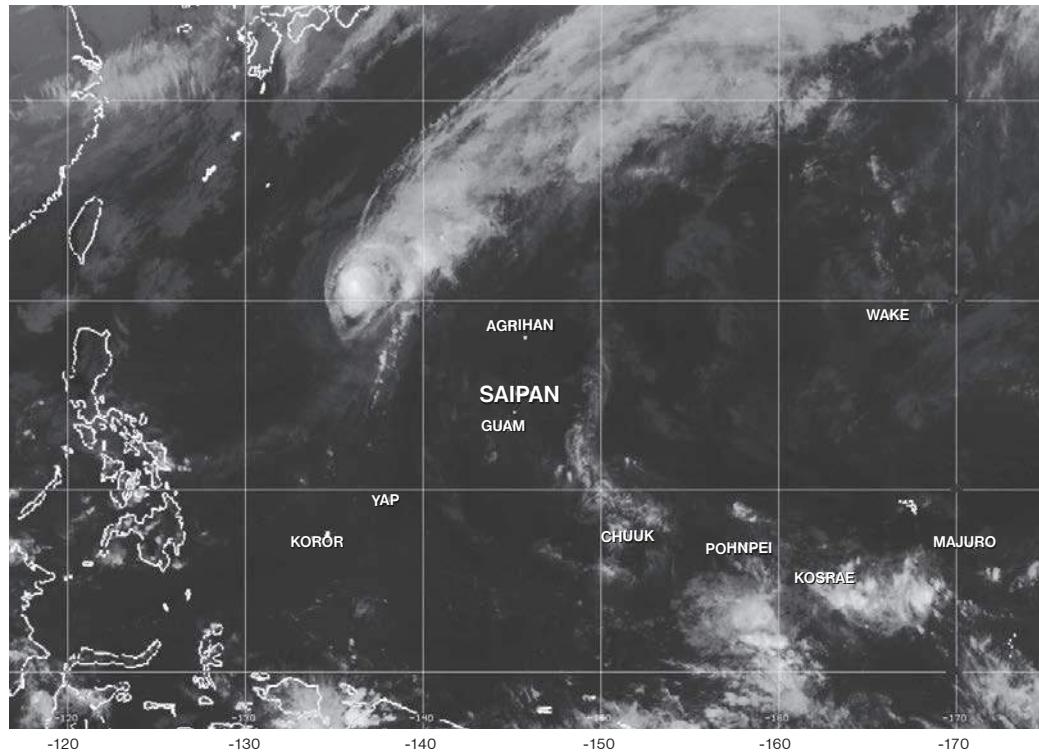
*Chief, Strategy and Plans Division
Pacific Air Forces, Hawaii*

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm In-fa (27W) is centered about 500 miles southwest of Iwo To island near 20N 135E moving northeast at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 22N and 19N from 134E to 139E. Extensive cloudiness, numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms stretch northeastward from In-fa between 25N and 22N from 136E to 141E. For more information on Tropical Storm In-fa, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from south of Pohnpei at 2N 158E to EQ178E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 2N and 6N from 157E to 169E including Kosrae but south of Pohnpei and Kwajalein.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 81

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
1:34 AM	Today	Low Tide: -0.5 Feet
8:19 AM	Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet
1:53 PM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
7:04 PM	Today	High Tide: 2.1 Feet

Around the Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲ 74 ▼ 60
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 27 ▼ 15
Hong Kong	Windy	▲ 72 ▼ 59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 47
Miami	Windy	▲ 78 ▼ 72
New York	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 47
Osaka	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 37
Pusan	Windy	▲ 47 ▼ 32
Rome	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 47
Salem	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 26
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 42
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 21
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 55 ▼ 47
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 39

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:11 PM	6:19 AM
Friday	7:08 PM	7:20 AM
Saturday	8:05 PM	8:18 AM
Sunday	9:00 PM	9:13 AM
Monday	8:54 PM	10:03 AM

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN		
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA2923	2:45am
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA2925	7:15am
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA2921	12:10pm
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA2920	12:15pm
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA2927	4:45pm
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA2929	8:30pm
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)		
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	12:10pm
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN		
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	1:15pm
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:35am
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	8:45am
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	OZ625	8:10pm
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5	OZ627	9:30pm
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6	7C3404	10:10pm
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN		
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	UA190/2929	9:55am
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/2929	10:00am
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/627	12:30pm
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA2925	10:05pm
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm			



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 <p>NINJA 1000 WATT BLENDER REFURBISHED</p>	 <p>OSTER BLENDER & FOOD PROCESSOR WITH GLASS CONTAINER REFURBISHED</p>	 <p>PVC 5 GALLON WATER BOTTLE WITH HANDLE</p>	 <p>OSTER 1.7 QUART ELECTRIC WHITE KETTLE</p>	 <p>BLACK & DECKER TOASTER OVEN WITH BROILER</p>	 <p>20 INCH HARD CASE, 360 SPINNER LUGGAGE ASSORTED COLORS</p>
 <p>WATER PROOF ACTIVITY CAMERA WITH HELMET MOUNT</p>	 <p>BLUETOOTH PILL HIGH DYNAMIC STEREO SPEAKER</p>	 <p>BLUETOOTH EAR BUD SPEAKER HEADSET</p>	 <p>MINION STEREO SPEAKER WITH USB</p>	 <p>ADULT SLEEPING BAG</p>	 <p>1200 SERIES 4 PIECE SHEET SETS KING SIZE</p>
 <p>SOLAR POWERED EMERGENCY LANTERN 2 MODELS</p>	 <p>MINION POWER BANK CELLPHONE CHARGER</p>	 <p>RECHARGEABLE BATTERY OPERATED MINIATURE FAN</p>	 <p>4-PERSON BACKPACK CAMPING TENT</p>	 <p>FOLDING BEACH LOUNGE CHAIR</p>	 <p>1200 SERIES 4 PIECE SHEET SETS QUEEN SIZE</p>
 <p>BALANCE 2 WHEEL GLIDE SCOOTER</p>	 <p>26" ADULT, 21 SPEED ALUMINUM MOUNTAIN BIKE</p>	 <p>26" ADULT, 21 SPEED STEEL FRAME MOUNTAIN BIKE</p>	 <p>4 PIECE RUBBER AUTO FLOOR MAT</p>	 <p>WELCOME 35X58CM OR 46X68CM DOORMAT</p>	 <p>1800 SERIES 3 PIECE SHEET SETS TWIN SIZE</p>

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

6 beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are Paupau Beach, San Roque School, Gagpan Beach drainage, Plumeria Hotel, Puerto Rico, and Old Man By The Sea.

Samples collected from

26 couples take part in ME Weekend

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter graduated 26 new couples at its fall 2015 Weekend, which took place from Nov. 20 to 22 at the Kanoa Resort.

The presenting team consisted of Tom and Erica Thornburgh, Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, John and Carol Hosono, and Gonzalo and Linda Pangelinan. The Renewal night is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, from 6pm to 9pm at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall. All newly encountered and alumni couples are encouraged to attend.

The mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a marriage

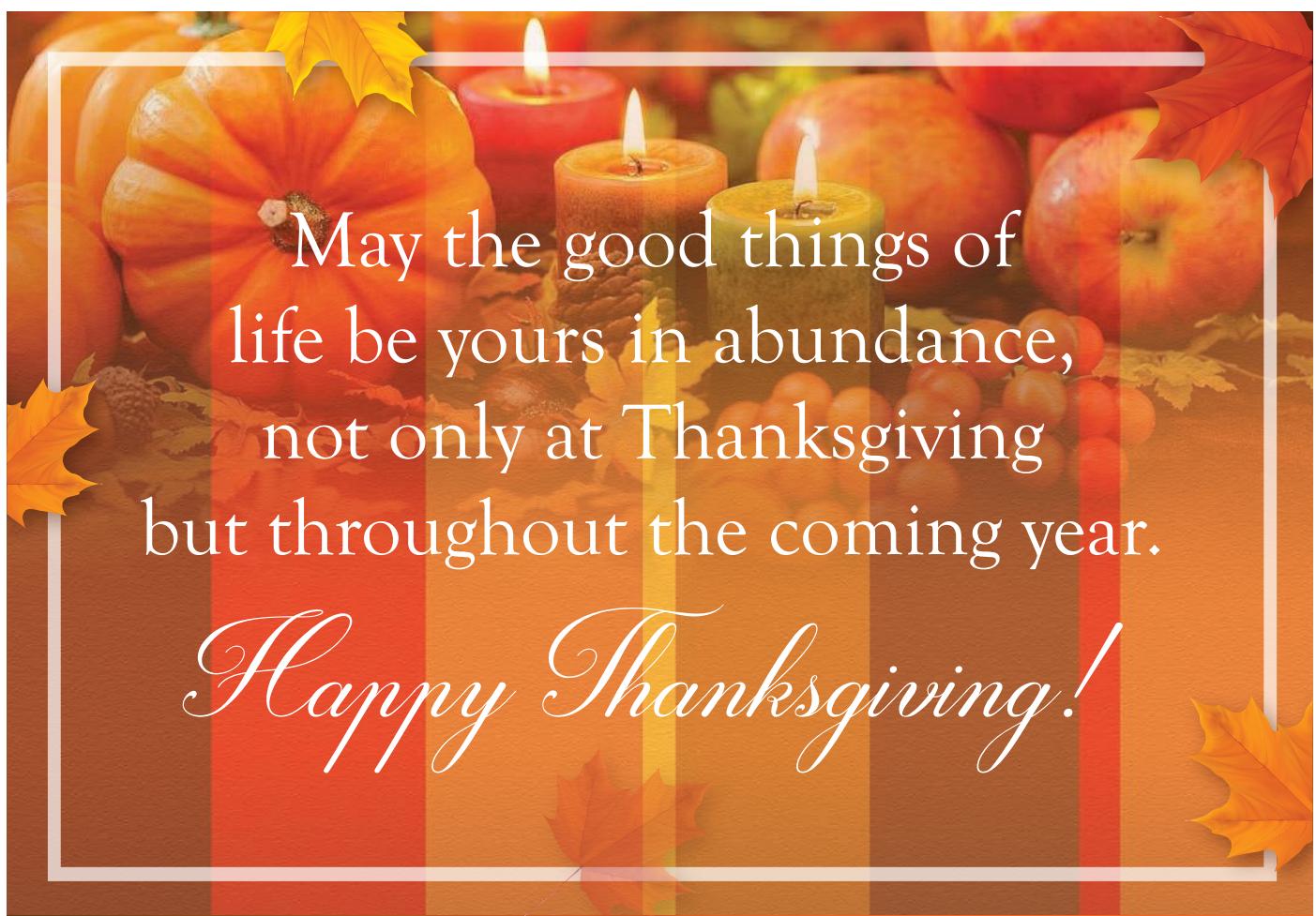
enrichment program, emphasizes the importance of communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's a special time for spouses to be alone together—to rediscover each other and together focus on their relationship for an entire weekend. Every marriage deserves that kind of attention.

The next ME Weekend will be scheduled on April 15-17, 2016. For more information, contact the CNMI's Ecclesiastical Couple, Charles and Cathy Cepeda, at 483-7000. (ME)

Nepal group to do Tinian cleanup

Nepal Tinian Society Inc. is organizing an islandwide cleanup on Nov. 28, 2015, starting at 6am and covering the areas from the Office of the Mayor site to the San Jose Church, fi-

esta grounds, Kammer Beach, Tachogna, and Taga Beach. All organization members will participate in the cleanup. Anyone who wants to join is welcome. (PR)



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Happy Thanksgiving!

This Thanksgiving, the Maternal & Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Division of Public Health would like to give thanks to the many partners who have worked tirelessly towards improving the lives of mothers and children, including children with special healthcare needs, within the CNMI:

- CHCC Children's Clinic
- CHCC Women's Clinic
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
- CNMI Governor's Office
- CNMI Immunization Program
- CNMI Medicaid Office
- CNMI Public School System (PSS)
- Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA)
- Community Guidance Center (CGC)
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)
- Department of Public Safety
- Division of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA)
- Division of Youth Services (DYS)
- Early Intervention Services (EIS)
- Gold's Gym
- Get Fit CNMI
- Guma Esperansa
- Hardt Eye Clinic
- Head Start Program
- Joeten Ent.
- Juvenile Detention Unit (JDU)
- Municipal Council
- National Office Supply
- Non-Communicable Disease Bureau (NCDB)
- Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
- Trench Tech Gym
- Women, Infants, Children (WIC)

MCHB would also like to acknowledge the countless other private and government agencies, as well as individual community members who have all taken an active role in promoting and protecting the health of our mothers, children, including children with special healthcare needs, and families.



This has been brought to you by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, through funds by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

MCS Theatre Club presents 'White Christmas' musical

Coming off the huge success of its recent stage adaptation of *The Breakfast Club*, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is gearing up for its next show, a musical production of *White Christmas*, which will feature swinging jazz music from the award-winning Guam Territorial Band.

At the helm of *White Christmas* as director is Theatre Club veteran Jonathan Pangelinan, who has starred in numerous productions, notably as Olaf in last year's hit production of *The Snow Queen*. Despite his experience, though, Pangelinan has found that directing is a completely different experience. As he puts it, "It's been difficult, especially because this is my first time leading this many people. But it's also interesting because I get to see how a play gets made. When you're a cast member, you don't see that."

Despite the transition, Pangelinan is very excited about

directing this show. "I always looked up to people who directed plays, and after learning more about this story, I knew I had to direct this show. I especially love the way the romance works out in the story for the two couples."

More importantly, Pangelinan felt it was important to raise the community's spirits in light of tragedies that have struck the island and the global community in the past few months, including Super Typhoon Soudelor and the recent terrorist attacks. "Lately, not a lot of good things have been happening, so I'm hoping that this show will be one of the good things that happens in our community so that people will experience the joy and happiness of Christmas."

This will not be the first time that the Theatre Club has staged *White Christmas*. The club performed the show back in 1998 as its first musical production, which at the

time featured another award-winning band, the University of Guam Jazz Band. The club is revisiting *White Christmas* as part of its 20th anniversary celebration. This time, however, the story has been adapted for a local audience. As Pangelinan hinted, "It has very Saipan-esque changes. People will recognize a lot of the references, especially AlumKnights."

White Christmas will be performed on Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5, at Saipan World Resort. Doors open at 6:30pm and tickets are \$25 for premium, front-row seats, \$10 for preferred seats closer to the stage, and \$5 for general admission seats. Tickets can be purchased at the school's Business Office or at the door. However, due to limited seating, advanced purchase of tickets is recommended. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)



Theatre Club veteran Jonathan Pangelinan, right, directs students in *White Christmas*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Guam Territorial Band will provide the music for *White Christmas*. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Temporary water outage in Kagman

Water personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. were unable to provide water service to customers in the higher elevations of Kagman yesterday due to low levels in the Kagman reservoir.

CUC Water personnel discovered a drop in tank levels Wednesday morning and spent the day searching for

the cause of the water loss. According to CUC Junior Engineer James Benavente, Operations and Engineering teams will resume a well-by-well inspection of the entire

Kagman water system Thursday morning to identify the source of the problem.

In the meantime, CUC water customers in portions of Kag-

man I and Kagman III will continue to experience a temporary service interruption until the problem is resolved and water levels inside of the tank are restored.

For more information, visit our website www.cucgov.org or contact CUC's Customer Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282). (CUC)

Holiday Bazaar at Fiesta on Dec. 6

Brilliant Star School is once again hosting an Annual Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 6, 2015, Sunday, at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan. Just like last year's very successful event, it will be held in the dinner show area from 9am to 2pm.

This 11th edition of the holiday bazaar will showcase the many talents, wares, and services of our CNMI artists and service providers during this one-day event. Local artists, cultural performers, as well as gift and community service providers are welcome to join the event by either displaying or offering their crafts at a booth or performing a short piece on stage. Additional attractions include a children's arts and crafts area and the an-

nual holiday raffle.

Some of the benefits for participating are:

- You get a "jump start" on sales before the traditional "start" of the holiday season.

- Fiesta Resort is a convenient and familiar location frequented by island residents and tourists.

- Free promotion done by Brilliant Star School. You don't have to spend money on advertising.

- Brilliant Star will name participants as often as possible while marketing this event via newspaper, radio announcements, posters, and flyers.

- Only a limited number of booths will be made available to guarantee that the expected several hundred guests will

visit your booth.

- Your participation will benefit the close to 100 children of Brilliant Star School, a private non-profit organization educating children from the ages of 18 months through the fifth grade.

- Attendees generally spend money to assist the school and buy their gifts during this annual holiday event. Being part of this school fundraising event will result in more sales for you.

The vendor registration fee is \$50 per individual display/sales area. The registration form and the layout of the dinner show area can be picked up at Brilliant Star School, located on Navy Hill. Or call 323-7827 for more information. (*Brilliant Star*)



Our thanks to you this Thanksgiving Season.

*Wishing you and your family a
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Ogumoro's motion to have charges dismissed denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has denied the motion of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro to have five of the eight corruption charges filed against him dismissed.

Finding Ogumoro's arguments unpersuasive, Wiseman denied the motion to dismiss three counts of misconduct in public office and two counts of removal of government property.

The three other charges in the second amended information are theft by deception, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

Ogumoro, through counsel Mark B. Hanson and Benjamin Petersburg, objects to the criminal charges contained in the two counts of removal of government property, alleging that prosecution of these misdemeanor charges did not commence within one year under the statute.

Wiseman noted that the government's prosecution of Ogumoro's case started on March 23, 2015, when an arrest was executed.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley argued that even if prosecution for a crime is time barred, it may still commence for "any offense based on misconduct in office by a public officer or employee at any time when the defendant is in the same public

office or employment or within two years thereafter."

Citing Ogumoro's termination letter, Baisley said that Ogumoro's last day as a public official was on March 23, 2014

Accordingly, the day of Ogumoro's arrest—March 23, 2015—was one day before the tolled statute of limitations deadline under Rule 45 of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Wiseman said conviction of the criminal charges contained in the three counts of misconduct in public office depends on whether Ogumoro was a public official at the time of the alleged offense.

Ogumoro also argued that prosecution of the criminal charges in one count of conspiracy to commit theft by decep-

tion, and two counts of removal of government property must be dismissed because it violates the double jeopardy clause.

The double jeopardy clause protects an individual against multiple punishments from the same offense.

But Wiseman was not persuaded. He said that one count of removal of government property refers to a government-owned car that was allegedly taken on Dec. 5, 2012. The other refers to a government-owned computer that was allegedly taken on March 12, 2013.

Wiseman said he is not persuaded that prosecution of the charges contained in the two counts of removal of government property (or conspiracy to commit theft

by deception charge) are indicative of multiple punishments for the same offense.

Ogumoro also objected to the criminal charges contained in three counts of misconduct in public office and one count of removal of government property, saying those charges fail to comply with Rule 7.

Under Rule 7, "The information shall be a plain, concise, and definite statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged."

Wiseman is not persuaded that the counts are deficient under Rule 7.

Citing precedent, Wiseman said the court explained that, "the Commonwealth, by Rule, need not bare their entire theory of the case for the defense at the outset of trial."

Generally, Wiseman said, vagueness or indefiniteness of an information may entitle a defendant to a bill of particulars clarifying the charges.

As to the sufficiency of the information, Wiseman said he looks to the information as a whole and in the context of any

discovery conducted.

The second amended information also charged Ogumoro's co-defendant Herman M. Manglona with conspiracy to commit theft by deception and receiving stolen property.

The jury trial of Ogumoro and Manglona will commence on Dec. 7, 2015. Last week, Ogumoro's co-defendant, Katherine Manglona, was dismissed from the case. Katherine Manglona is Ogumoro's girlfriend and sister of Herman Manglona.

According to the allegations, Ogumoro brought a 1995 Toyota four-door Tercel that belonged to DPS to a shop for repairs using DPS funds totaling \$2,500 in 2012 and then sold the vehicle as "scrap" for only \$50 to Herman Manglona.

Ogumoro and Katherine Manglona also allegedly instructed a DPS staff to bring a DPS desktop computer to a shop for repair using DPS funding in the amount of \$276.

The computer was allegedly later used in the office at True North Bar & Grill, which is owned by Ogumoro.

Black Friday deals to kick off a merry holiday season

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy.demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

You won't want to miss these holiday deals so be prepared this Black Friday to grab the following before they're gone.

JOETEN STORES

For great savings on staple grocery items such as chicken leg quarters at \$10.99 for a 20-lb case to 99-cents-per-pound turkey for Thanksgiving, there are great savings throughout the store worth stocking up on, including 30-percent off apparel plus buy one, get one 50-percent off footwear at Athlete's Foot all starting at 7am.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

In need of some hot deals to furnish your home or backyard? Black Friday deals at Ace Hardware include 30-percent off sofas or loveseats, dining sets, and bedroom sets. Enjoy 40-percent off lamps, rugs, curtains, and accessories, 50 percent off assorted Weber gas grills and other household items. Limited quantities are available so hurry while supplies last!

DIAL RENT-TO-OWN

Looking for a Blu-ray player or a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 kid's edition? Dial is having a cash-only sale for LG Blu-ray players priced at \$39 and Tabs at just \$99 at both Middle Road and Chalan Kanoa locations.

TRIPLE J TRUCKLOAD SALE

Looking to score some deals for Christmas gifts? Check out Triple J from Thursday to Friday from 11am to 7pm, Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sunday

from 11am to 5pm for Disney toys and play tents priced under \$25, 10-percent off Christmas decorations and great savings on home appliances. All major credit cards are accepted. For more information on the store-wide deals, call 322-0430.

TOWN HOUSE

Backed by their outstanding product warranties, Town House is offering great deals on furniture and appliances during their three-day sale. Reclining microfiber sofa sets are price at \$899, Yamaha guitars from \$129 to \$300 and twin-, full-, or queen-size mattresses from \$269 to \$499. The sale ends on Nov. 29 so don't miss it!

BALI FASHION

Looking at an early start to a wardrobe overhaul? Bali Fashion is having a sale on their entire clothing inventory from 25 to 50 percent off on Friday, from 4pm to 10pm.

IT&E

With the official launch of their faster LTE network, you really don't want to skip IT&E's deals this Friday. Both locations will be open from 6am to 8pm with free gifts for those who show up in the first two hours of opening. If you are looking to get great deals on popular mobile brands to enjoy the faster network, IT&E's new inventory is worth checking out.

DOCOMO PACIFIC

Docomo Pacific is offering awesome gifts for their Red Friday deals that are buy 1, get 1 of equal value and 50 percent off select accessories. If you purchase a prepaid phone, you get \$20 free load. Find out more by visiting their locations.

Today and everyday we are grateful for our wonderful clients and friends.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Asia

Militant attacks abroad a diplomatic quandary for China's Xi

BEIJING (AP)—The murders of Chinese citizens by Islamic militants in Syria and Mali place President Xi Jinping in a quandary: How can Beijing respond effectively without betraying its strict stance against intervention?

The dilemma underscores the tension between China's desire to be seen as a leading global power and its desire to main-

tain its own independent foreign policy while shunning the U.S.-led Western liberal democratic political agenda.

How Xi will square that ideological circle and what concrete

actions he'll take in response could mark an inflection point in Chinese diplomacy. More likely, analysts say, he'll stick to China's long-established neutrality while possibly taking limited behind-the-scenes measures to help in the global campaign against Islamic extremists.

"For China, intervention would be a real game-changer," said Australian National Security College expert Michael Clarke. "Frankly, I think Xi is in a very difficult position here."

Regardless of what it chooses to do, China has increasingly found itself confronted by Islamic militant groups.

Three Chinese—all high-ranking executives with the state-owned China Railway Construction Corp.'s international group—were among the 19 victims of last week's attack on the Radisson Blu hotel in Mali's capital, Bamako. The al-Qaida-linked group known as Al-Mourabitoun—or The Sentinels—has claimed responsibility for the attack.

That followed the killing of 50-year-old Beijing native Fan Jinghui by Islamic State group extremists. Xi vowed to bring Fan's killers to justice, but China has offered no details on how it plans to do so.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters Monday that China was working to "increase our emergency reaction and early warning capabilities" to confront threats against overseas personnel and assets.

Calls online from the Chinese public dismissing Beijing's response and calling for action against militants have been suppressed by China's Internet censors. With more Chinese than ever traveling abroad for work, study and travel, the government has been under growing pressure to identify threats and ensure their safety through its consulates and embassies.

Japan defense minister supports US in South China Sea

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii (AP)—Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani on Tuesday expressed his support for the U.S. Navy's sailing of a warship close to one of China's artificial islands in the South China Sea.

Nakatani told reporters after meeting Adm. Harry Harris, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, that the U.S. military was at the forefront of the international community's efforts to protect open, free and peaceful oceans in the South China Sea. He added he expressed Japan's support for U.S. actions to Harris.

"The international community will not allow the unilateral changing of the status quo by force, and our country believes the same," Nakatani said. "The U.S. believes the same, too, and we agreed on this point."

The U.S. Navy last month sailed a guided missile destroyer inside what China claims is a 12-mile territorial limit around Subi Reef in the Spratly Islands. The move was a challenge to what the U.S. considers Beijing's "excessive claim" of sovereignty in those waters.

He said Japan would continue to help countries in the region bolster their own maritime forces. Japan is giving 10 patrol ships to the Philippine coast guard.

"We have proactively par-

ticipated in activities promoting the regional stability, including helping build the capacity of countries around the South China Sea and holding joint exercises between the U.S. military and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces," Nakatani said.

The defense minister's visit to Hawaii to meet with senior U.S. military leaders was his first since Japan's parliament in September approved legislation loosening post-World War II constraints on its military.

The new law allows Tokyo's military to defend its allies even when the country isn't under attack. The law will enable Japan to work more closely with the U.S. and other nations.

The new law would also allow Japan to help defend a U.S. ship under attack. The U.S. has long been able to help a Japanese ship in the same situation, but Japan's prohibitions against collective self-defense didn't allow the reverse.

The legislation sparked protests and debate in Japan about whether Tokyo should shift away from its pacifist ways to face growing security challenges.

The law's supporters say Japan's neighborhood has become a more dangerous place, citing North Korean missile tests and Chinese challenges to Japanese sovereignty over remote islands.

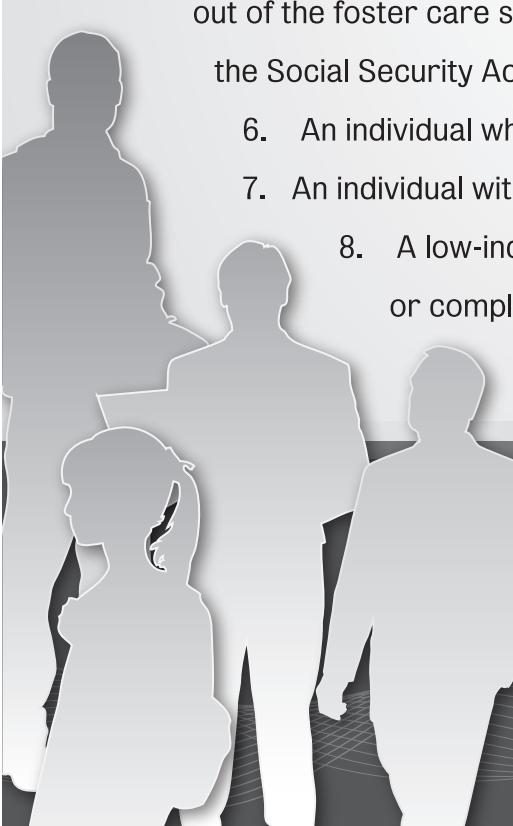
They say Japan's military needs to be more active to deter China and North Korea and help preserve Japan's peace and prosperity. A major goal of the legislation is to allow the military to work more closely with its main ally, the United States, strengthening their joint capabilities.



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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday December 10, 2015, 9:00 AM** at the Office of the Mayor Conference Room, San Jose Tinian.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a) Call to Order
- b) Roll Call
- c) Adoption of the November 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- d) Adoption of Agenda

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

1. Tinian Magpo Homestead (TMS-2015-X-059)
 - a. Discussion by DCRM Agency Officials and DCRM Director
 - b. Permit Application Determination

III. MISCELLANEOUS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items.

(NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ **FRANCES A. CASTRO**
DCRM Director

World

Turkey shoots down Russian jet it says violated its airspace

MOSCOW (AP)—Turkey shot down a Russian warplane on Tuesday that it said ignored repeated warnings and crossed into its airspace from Syria, killing at least one of the two pilots in a long-feared escalation in tensions between Russia and NATO. Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced what he called a “stab in the back” and warned of “significant consequences.”

The shoot down—the first time in half a century that a NATO member has downed a Russian plane—prompted an emergency meeting of the alliance. The incident highlighted the chaotic complexity of Syria’s civil war, where multiple groups with clashing alliances are fighting on the ground and the sky is crowded with aircraft bombing various targets.

“As we have repeatedly made clear we stand in solidarity with Turkey and support the territorial integrity of our NATO ally, Turkey,” NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference after the meeting of the alliance’s decision-making North Atlantic Council, called at Turkey’s request.

Paris attackers exploited intelligence gaps that remain open

PARIS (AP)—The Paris attackers exploited intelligence holes from France to Syria, authorities say, taking advantage of mistrust between European governments, France’s overwhelmed security services and the collapse of authority across the war zone contested by the Islamic State group.

Eleven days after the attacks in Paris, French authorities have announced few details about the investigation, and Brussels remains locked down for reasons the government has hardly explained. Officials aren’t disclosing everything they have found out about the attackers and their travels between Europe and Syria. But officials and security experts



In this Oct. 22, 2015 file photo, a Russian Su-24 takes off on a combat mission at Hemeimeem airbase in Syria.

The pilots of the downed Su-24 ejected, but one was killed by Syrian rebel fire from the ground as he parachuted to Earth, said the Russian general staff, insisting the Russian jet had been in Syrian airspace at the time. One of two helicopters

sent to the crash site to search for survivors was also hit by rebel fire, killing one serviceman and forcing the chopper to make an emergency landing, the military said.

Stoltenberg urged “calm and de-escalation” and renewed

contacts between Moscow and Ankara. Russia has long been at odds with NATO, which it accuses of encroaching on Russia’s borders, as well as with Turkey’s determination to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad, a longtime Moscow ally.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

In Washington, President Barack Obama said Turkey “has a right to defend its territory and its airspace.”

At a news conference with French President Francois Hollande, he said the incident underscored the “ongoing problem” with Russia’s military operations in Syria, where the Russians have been targeting groups near the Turkish border. Calling Russia an “outlier” in the global fight against the Islamic State group, Obama said that if Moscow were to concen-

trate its airstrikes on IS targets, mistakes “would be less likely to occur.”

On Sept. 30, Russia began a campaign of massive airstrikes in Syria, which it says are aimed at destroying fighters of the Islamic State group but which Western critics contend are bolstering Assad’s forces.

Before Tuesday’s incident, Russia and the West appeared to be moving toward an understanding of their common strategic goal of eradicating IS, which gained momentum after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, as well as the Oct. 31 bombing of a Russian airliner over Egypt’s Sinai desert. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Turkey said its fighter pilots acted after two Russian Su-24 bombers ignored numerous warnings that they were nearing and then entering Turkish airspace. In a letter to the U.N. Security Council and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Turkey said the Russian warplanes violated its airspace “to a depth of 1.36 miles and 1.15 miles ... for 17 seconds” just after 9:24 a.m.

Under Iraqi town, IS militants built large network of tunnels

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—Under the Iraqi town of Sinjar, Islamic State group militants built a network of tunnels, complete with sleeping quarters, wired with electricity and fortified with sandbags. There, they had boxes of U.S.-made ammunition, medicines and copies of the Quran stashed on shelves.

The Associated Press obtained extensive video footage of the tunnels, which were uncovered by Kurdish forces that took the city in northwestern Iraq earlier this month after more than a year of IS rule.

“We found between 30 and 40 tunnels inside Sinjar,” said Shamo Eado, a commander from Sinjar from the Iraqi Kurdish fighters known as peshmerga. “It was like a network inside the city.”

“Daesh dug these trenches in order to hide from airstrikes and have free movement underground as well as to store weapons and explosives,” Eado said using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. “This was their military arsenal.”

The video, shot by a freelancer touring the town with Kurdish fighters, showed two tunnels running several hundred meters (yards), each starting and ending from houses, through holes knocked in walls or floors.

The narrow tunnels, carved in the rock apparently with jackhammers or other handheld equipment, are just tall enough for a man to stand in. Rows of sandbags line sections of the

walls, electrical wires power fans and lights and metal braces reinforce the ceilings. One section of the tunnel resembled a bunker. Dusty copies of the Quran sit above piles of blankets and pillows. Prescription drugs—painkillers and antibiotics—lie scattered along the floor.

In another section of the tunnel, the footage shows stocks of ammunition, including American-made cartridges and bomb-making tools.

IS has been digging tunnels for protection and movement throughout the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria, even before the U.S.-led coalition launched its campaign of airstrikes against the group more than a year ago. “This has been part of ISIS’ strategy from the very beginning,” said Lina Khatib a senior research associate at the Arab Reform initiative, a Paris-based think-tank. “ISIS has been well prepared for this kind of intervention.”

The Islamic State group took control of Sinjar in August 2014, killing and capturing thousands of the town’s mostly Yazidi residents. Yazidis, a religious minority in Iraq with roots that date back to ancient Mesopotamia, are considered heretics by the hard-line Islamic State group. Hundreds of women are thought to still be in IS captivity, those who have escaped say many Yazidi women are forced to convert to Islam and marry IS fighters.

Tunisia declares state of emergency after bus blast kills 12

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia’s president declared a 30-day state of emergency across the country and imposed an overnight curfew for the capital Tuesday after an explosion struck a bus carrying members of the presidential guard, killing at least 12 people and wounding 20 others.

The government described it as a terrorist attack. The blast on a tree-lined avenue in the heart of Tunis is a new blow to a country that is seen as a model for the region but has struggled against Islamic extremist violence. Radical gunmen staged two attacks earlier this year that killed 60 people, devastated the tourism industry and rattled this

young democracy.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack against the presidential guard, an elite security force that protects only the president.

President Beji Caid Essebsi, who wasn’t in the bus at the time, declared the state of emergency and curfew on the Tunis region. He convened an emergency meeting of his security council for Wednesday morning.

Speaking on national television, he said Tunisia is at “war against terrorism” and urged international cooperation against extremists who have killed hundreds around Europe and the Mideast in recent weeks, from

Paris to Beirut to a Russian plane shot down over Egypt.

“I want to reassure the Tunisian people that we will vanquish terrorism,” he said.

Police fanned out throughout central Tunis after Tuesday’s explosion, and ambulances rushed to the scene, evacuating wounded and dead. Top government ministers visited the scene of the attack after it was cordoned off by police.

Interior Ministry spokesman Walid Louguini told The Associated Press that at least 12 were killed and 20 wounded in the attack.

Witness Bassem Trifi, a human rights lawyer, said the explosion hit the driver’s side

of the bus, describing a “catastrophic” scene.

“I saw at least five corpses on the ground,” he told the AP. “This was not an ordinary explosion.”

The attack came days after authorities visibly increased the security level in the capital and deployed security forces in unusually high numbers.

Earlier this month, Tunisian authorities announced the dismantling of a cell that it said had planned attacks at police stations and hotels in the seaside city of Sousse, about 150 kilometers (95 miles) southeast of Tunis. Sousse was one of the targets of attacks earlier this year.

Life & Style

Obama honoring Streisand, Spielberg, Yogi Berra and more

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama recognized 17 Americans with the nation's highest civilian award on Tuesday, including the first African-American woman elected to Congress, one of the greatest catchers in baseball history and a "Funny Girl."

"Today we celebrate some extraordinary people: innovators, artists and leaders who contribute to America's strength as a nation," Obama said.

Obama presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to filmmaker Steven Spielberg, musicians Gloria and Emilio Estefan, singer James Taylor, composer Stephen Sondheim, violinist Itzhak Perlman and actress Barbra Streisand, who won an Academy award for her performance in the classic film, "Funny Girl."

The sports honorees were Baseball Hall of Famers Willie Mays and Yogi Berra. Berra,



AP President Barack Obama, right, presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Barbra Streisand during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, in Washington.

who died in September, was a famed Yankees' catcher, an 18-time All-Star and 10-time World Series champion. The president noted that Berra also served in World War II. Mays was among the first African-American play-

ers in Major League Baseball.

"It's because of giants like Willie that someone like me could even think about running for president," Obama said.

The politicians bestowed the honor are Democrats: Sen. Bar-

bara Mikulski of Maryland, who has championed equal pay and women's health during her 44 years of public service; former Rep. Lee Hamilton from Indiana, a longtime advocate of American national security and international relations; and the late Rep. Shirley Chisholm from New York. Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to Congress and a founding member of what would become the Congressional Black Caucus.

Of Hamilton, Obama said he helped guide the nation through the Cold War and had a consistent commitment to bipartisanship.

Obama spoke about each recipient; among the other honorees were:

■ Bonnie Carroll, a veterans advocate, who founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to support families and loved ones of military heroes killed during their service.

Cable TV hunting show host pleads guilty in poaching case

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—The host of a cable TV hunting show has pleaded guilty as part of an investigation into poaching on a remote national preserve in Alaska.

The terms of a plea deal signed by Clark W. Dixon on Monday call for an 18-month prison sentence, a \$75,000 fine and forfeiture of trophies and weapons that the U.S. attorney's office says were used in the illegal taking of game.

The charges involve activities between 2008 and 2013 at Noatak National Preserve in northwest Alaska. After the charges were announced in September, the Sportsman Channel said it had suspended Dixon's show, "The Syndicate."

Sentencing was set for February. Dixon is from Mississippi.

The U.S. Attorney's office said in a release that four others charged in the case, including Dixon's father, have pleaded guilty and been sentenced. Dixon is the only one among those facing a prison sentence.

Dixon was accused of participating in the illegal take of a brown bear and with conducting an illegal hunting operation.

"We've reached an agreement where my client has accepted responsibility and is agreeing to move on," Dixon's attorney, Brent Cole, said Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Skrocki said by email that the investigation "uncovered an extensive and illegal outfitting enterprise which was operating undetected for years in the furthest reaches of Alaska."

Skrocki said many of the hunts were selectively edited to appear legal for Dixon's TV show.

'Carol,' 'Beasts of No Nation' lead Independent Spirit nods

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 1950s-set romance "Carol" starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara collected the most nominations Tuesday for the 31st Film Independent Spirit Awards.

The Todd Haynes-directed film picked up six nods in categories including best feature, director and lead actress for both Mara and Blanchett.

"Beasts of No Nation," a fictional drama about a child soldier, received five nominations including best feature, best cinematography and best director for Cary Joji Fukunaga.

Idris Elba also picked up a supporting acting nomination for the film—the first original feature from Netflix.

Oscar hopefuls are sprinkled throughout each category of the awards recognizing achievements in independent film.

Films receiving four nomi-

nations each, including beat feature, were "Anomalisa," a dark, animated love story; "Spotlight," about The Boston Globe's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation into the abuses of the Catholic Church; and "Tangerine," about sex workers in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve.

"Spotlight" was also selected for the Robert Altman Award for its excellent ensemble cast. Sean Baker's "Tangerine" scored acting nominations for its transgender stars Kitana Kiki Rodriguez (lead) and Mya Taylor (supporting).

Jennifer Jason Leigh was recognized in the supporting female category for her vocal performance in "Anomalisa."

While diversity in choices prevailed in most categories, the nominees for best director were all males—Fukunaga, Haynes, Baker ("Tangerine"), Duke

Heller ("The Diary of a Teenage Girl") and Chloé Zhao ("Songs My Brothers Taught Me")—were, however, both recognized for their direction in the best first feature category.

Heller also received a best first screenplay nomination for the coming-of-age story and actress Bel Powley was recognized for her leading performance.

In the past, the Spirit Awards have tended to include some eventual Oscar nominees and winners. Last year, Indie Spirit winners mimicked the Oscar winners in categories such as best feature ("Birdman"), actress (Julianne Moore for "Still Alice"), and supporting actor (J.K. Simmons for "Whiplash").

Rosie O'Donnell relishes a new criminal role on Fox's 'Empire'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell was delighted when "Empire" creator Lee Daniels invited her to guest star on the Fox drama, then got a case of nerves.

"I'd watched the performances, and I'm stunned every week because I can't believe the level of acting and the amount of (dialogue) and stories" in each episode, O'Donnell said.

Worried about "not being on my game," she worked with an acting coach before taping.

"I prepared for this like I've never prepared for anything in my career, because I didn't want to disappoint and I understood the pace at which they work," she said.

In the episode airing 9 p.m. EST Wednesday, O'Donnell plays Pepper O'Leary, a tough criminal who shared a cell for

■ Katherine G. Johnson, a NASA mathematician, whose calculations influenced every major space program, including the flight of the first American into space.

■ William Ruckelshaus, a former chief of the Environmental Protection Agency, who shaped the guiding principles of the agency, including a nationwide ban on the pesticide DDT and an agreement with the automobile industry to require catalytic converters to reduce automobile pollution.

Posthumous recipients include Indian tribal advocate Billy Frank Jr., who led "fish-ins"—similar to sit-ins—during the tribal "fish wars" of the 1960s and 1970s, and civil rights leader Minoru Yasui, who challenged the constitutionality of a military curfew order during World War II on the grounds of racial discrimination and spent months in solitary confinement during the legal battle.

DEAR ABBY: Mom and sister join forces to dictate wedding party

DEAR ABBY: My mother and older sister are trying to spoil my happiness about my upcoming wedding.

I have known my ex-stepmother, "Gina," for 20 years and have been best friends with her for the last 15. We remained close even after she divorced my biological father, who is not in the picture.

I had an appointment to go dress shopping and invited my friends, my mom and Gina (who lives out of state). When I told Mom that Gina was coming, her response was she would come "some other time." Abby, Mom has been remarried for more than 30 years and has spent time with Gina prior to this. It's not like they are enemies.

My older sister doesn't get along with Gina. She told me if Gina is part of the bridal party, she won't come to my wedding. I'm having a bachelorette party in the state where Gina lives. The invitations won't be sent for another few months. When my older sister found out, she accused me of not telling her. I explained that I'm not planning the party, my friend will be sending out the invitations and I wasn't keeping anything from her. She hung up on me!

These two ladies are spoiling what should be a happy time for me. Have I done something that, from an outside perspective, you consider wrong?

DEAR DESPERATELY SEEKING: Your mother's refusal to participate in the selection of your wedding gown was an example of passive aggression. Your mother and sister aren't trying to spoil your happiness about your wedding. They are trying to manipulate and blackmail you into excluding your former stepmother. From this outsider's perspective, you have done nothing wrong—but they have.

DEAR ABBY: I recently started volunteering at a wonderful organization and was asked to assist the board with a special project. At the initial meeting with two of the board members, everything was going well until the first board member excused himself and the other one immediately began to badmouth the person who had left the room.

I'm new to volunteering here. Neither board member knows me at all. It made me very uncomfortable and I didn't know how to respond. These two individuals have known each other for many years.

I don't want to get involved in this petty business, but I'll have to work closely with both of them in the coming months. Most of my interactions will be with the person who was spoken about poorly. At least three board members have recently quit because of this person. How should I proceed?

NEW VOLUNTEER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR NEW VOLUNTEER: Proceed by not allowing yourself to get dragged into board politics. If one board member starts badmouthing another, excuse yourself.

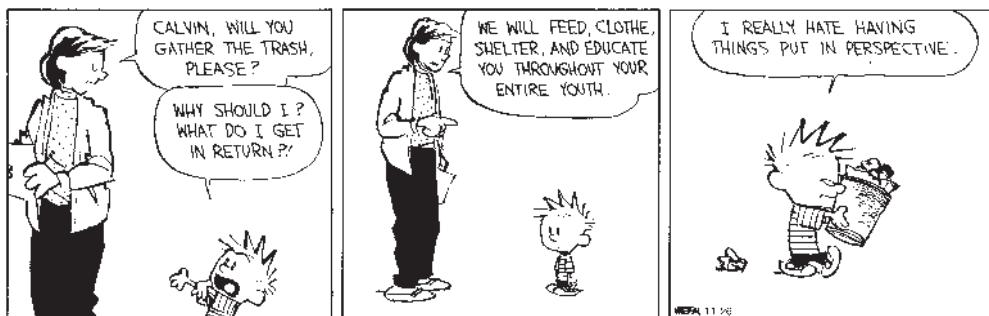
If three people have quit, there are obviously problems with the governance of this organization. If you can do your job without getting involved in the dysfunction, stick with it. If you can't, then for your own sanity, find another place to donate your time and talents.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DESPERATELY SEEKING ADVICE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



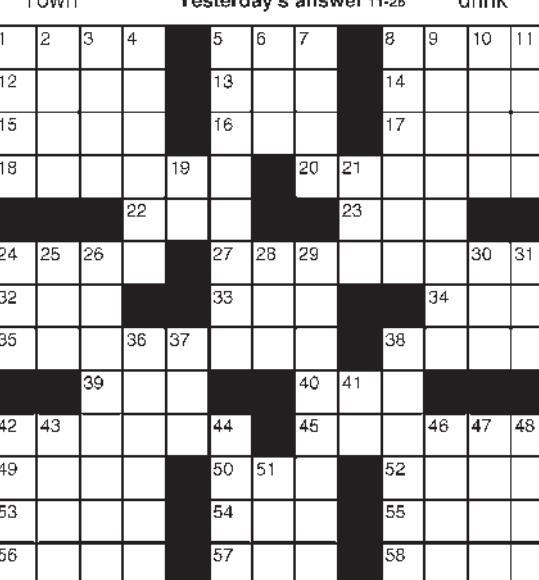
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 "Bridge of Spies"	57 NYPD rank	11 Ore galore
1 Clothes	5 Tot's star	58 Terrier type	19 "What a cute puppy!"
5 Neckwear	38 Skip	21 Late July baby	24 Dog doc
8 Breeze (through)	39 Aviation pref.	25 In the past	26 Battle axe
12 Small needle case	40 From A — (the works)	28 Astronaut's "fine"	29 Nike's tag line
13 Mopey music genre	42 Gung-ho	3 Sand formation	30 "Yes, Gigil!"
14 Repeat	45 Puff was a magic one	4 Tourist attractions	31 "The A-Team" actor
15 Tiger tooth	49 Comic Sandler	5 Franklin on \$100 bill	36 Maker of high-end scarves
16 Rejections	50 Diminutive suffix	6 Texter's "As I see it ..."	37 Altar constellation
17 Mil. school	52 Nashville's McEntire	7 Fall pear	38 Missouri range
18 Leon Uris novel	53 "Dirty Jobs"	8 Ocean breeze	41 Choice word?
20 "Reverie" composer Debussy	54 Maui host Mike	9 Familiarize	42 — avis
22 Former Delta rival	55 Retain	10 If — a Hammer"	43 Uproars
23 Grafton's "— for Evidence"	56 Says	Solution time: 25 mins.	44 Swinging joints?
24 Big tubs	TILT URB MASH		46 Tech whiz
27 Astronaut in a David Bowie hit	ACA MEL INCA		47 Follow orders
32 Star quality?	KEPT PACE SNAG		48 Scruff
33 Debtor's pledge	FDDIE UPSFTS		51 Eggy drink
34 Wilder's "— Town"	ATADUAR		
	VAIN FERNICK		
	ERR COPAY CEO		
	TKO AGOG BEEP		
	NAG TUBA		
	DADDY O ORATE		
	ALUM BIG BROWN		
	BIKE IRS ENID		
	STEN EVA LEGS		

Yesterday's answer 11-26



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 42; Garcelle Beauvais, 49; Tina Turner, 76; Rich Little, 77.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will get in your way if you fail to address issues that have been lingering for way too long. Before everything around you starts to fall apart, get your head out of the sand and say what's on your mind. The only way to move forward is to deal with the past. Put things in perspective. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 27, 36, 41, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Step up your pace and get ready to wheel and deal. Negotiate with passion and offer incentives to entice others to see and do things your way. Put love on a pedestal and plan a romantic evening for two. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make changes for the right reasons. Don't let someone's unpredictable actions lead you down the wrong path. You have to do what brings you the highest returns, not what will please others. Stand your ground and you will come out ahead. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What you should do and what you want to do will leave you facing an emotional dilemma. Don't be fooled by what you hear. Dig deep and get the facts if you want to prevent people from taking advantage of you. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Trying to keep a secret will be futile. Make it clear what you think, how you feel and what

you intend to do. Not everyone will agree, but at least you'll be doing what's best for you. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Networking will lead to a better position or an opportunity to partner with someone who brings you good fortune. Take part in events or activities that allow you to share your plans and solicit the help you need to succeed. ★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let what others do or say get you down. If someone puts demands on you, walk away. Your greatest revenge will be your success. Realize your potential and don't stop until you reach your chosen destination. ★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sign up for a conference or check out new interests or philosophies. You can make positive changes to turn your life around if you aren't afraid to follow your instincts and pursue your dreams. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Rethink your financial strategy. Do whatever it takes to cut costs and utilize what you have to make ends meet. Don't let unusual requests turn into costly ventures. Protect your heart and your pocketbook. Invest in your talents. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to what everyone around you is doing. Don't give in to emotional tactics that will leave you handling the brunt of the work. Learn to delegate both at home and at work, and you will gain respect. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Compromise when it comes to affairs of the heart, but don't cover someone else's expenses. Set clear boundaries and offer fair deals in both your personal and professional dealings. If someone doesn't like your terms, walk away. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your enthusiasm will lead to greater prosperity. An enterprising side business will boost your confidence and your bank account. Romance will lead to positive changes at home and help you better relate to the ones you love. ★★★★★

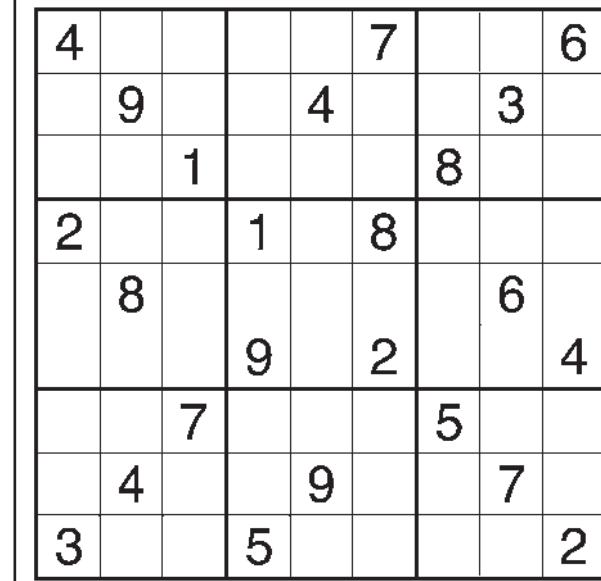
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself and go about your business. The less you share, the easier it will be to reach your goals. Interference will slow you down, causing discord and potential loss. Don't let anyone use emotional manipulation to alter your plans. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are a team player. You are outgoing, aggressive and fearless. Eugenia's website — eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhorob> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

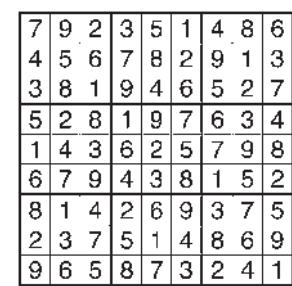
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THANKSGIVING IN THE UNITED STATES

Solution: 7 letters

G	H	F	C	R	O	P	S	T	R	O	P	S	F	R
R	B	O	A	D	E	T	S	A	O	R	G	H	E	E
A	E	O	L	M	F	R	E	Y	A	R	P	J	S	W
T	E	T	S	I	I	D	A	L	A	S	O	A	T	A
I	T	B	G	E	D	L	R	V	M	I	M	V	I	R
T	S	A	E	S	L	A	Y	A	C	A	N	E	V	D
U	T	L	N	G	R	P	Y	E	H	T	A	S	A	S
D	H	L	I	I	A	E	P	H	O	S	T	P	L	G
E	A	R	D	B	K	T	N	A	P	A	I	R	R	N
V	N	O	M	R	A	P	I	N	E	O	A	S	I	

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Johnny Manziel benched by Browns for off-field behavior



BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Dropped from starter to third-stringer—without playing a game.

Johnny Manziel partied his way out of the lineup during Cleveland's bye week.

Browns coach Mike Pettine benched the polarizing quarterback on Tuesday for his off-field behavior, a move that could signal Manziel's days with the team are numbered.

Pettine said Josh McCown will start Monday night's game against Baltimore in place of Manziel, who was recently handed the starting job but couldn't keep it while the team had a week off.

Manziel's benching comes in the wake of a video surfacing of him holding a bottle of champagne and rapping profane lyrics last weekend in an Austin, Texas, nightclub.

He had promised not to bring any embarrassment to the team during its week off, and did just that and Pettine, who has been supportive of Manziel in the past, has had enough.

"Everyone in this organization wants what is best for Johnny just like we do for every player in our locker room. I'm especially disappointed in his actions and behavior because he has been working very hard," Pettine said.

"The improvements from last year to this year have been tremendous, but he still has to consistently demonstrate that he has gained a good understanding of what it takes to be successful at the quarterback position on this level," he said. "It goes well beyond the field."

Manziel will not only move back behind McCown, but he'll also be below Austin Davis on the depth chart.

Pettine met with Manziel following practice Tuesday and informed him of his choice to bench him for the foreseeable future. Pettine, whose job could



AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel walks off the field after the Browns' 31-10 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals in an NFL football game Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, in Cincinnati.

lated its personal conduct policy during the incident.

Still, it was another red flag for Manziel, who has made some positive steps, but just not enough of them.

"He's done everything that's asked as far as meetings and studying and trying to improve as a quarterback," McCown said. "We've seen that. There are obviously things away from the facility that maybe people aren't pleased with and maybe need to get cleaned up."

"It's a work in progress. But I feel like I always see and believe the good in people. There's some youth involved in some of the decision making that might not be the best, but I certainly don't count him out by any stretch."

be in jeopardy if the Browns (2-8) don't demonstrate some progress the rest of this season, said owner Jimmy Haslam and general manager Ray Farmer support his decision.

The 22-year-old Manziel has developed on the field during his second NFL season.

However, despite saying he had learned from his past mistakes, Manziel, who spent 70 days during the offseason in a rehab facility specializing in alcohol and drug treatment, has not shown the maturity the Browns are looking for from their quarterback.

Before Tuesday's practice, Pettine expressed both disappointment and frustration with Manziel, who passed for a career-high 372 yards in a recent loss to Pittsburgh. As he got ready to turn his players loose last week, Pettine spoke to Manziel about being responsible and was given assurances

by the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner that he would behave.

Manziel didn't make his plans known, but pledged that he would not become a distraction.

"I don't think they're going to have to worry about me this week," he told reporters.

But it was hardly shocking when the video and photos appeared of Manziel, who entered the league with a reputation for enjoying his free time.

This time, though, the Browns weren't so willing to excuse Manziel's conduct.

Pettine said much of his displeasure in Manziel stemmed in him not seeming to understand that his behavior was a reflection on the team.

"You have a vision of what you want the team to look like, how you want them to handle themselves when they're out of the building," he said. "It's not just pure football here, it's truly player development on and off

the field."

"We always say to whom much is given, much is expected, and that's true for all of our players," he said.

McCown has finally recovered from a serious rib injury, which had initially vaulted Manziel into the starting lineup.

"My hope for him is, whatever those choices that he's making, that they're healthy choices and they're good for him as a person," McCown said. "When you're in that room with somebody and spend as much time as we do together, there's a connection there."

Along with his penchant for partying, Manziel was recently investigated by the NFL for a domestic dispute. He was questioned by police in Avon, Ohio, after an in-car argument with his girlfriend.

The league announced on Nov. 17 that it did not find sufficient evidence that Manziel vio-

lating the NFL's rules.

Manziel's absence extended as he's fitted with walking cast

told the team's website Tuesday.

That means Manning, who was benched after throwing his fourth interception against Kansas City on Nov. 15, will miss Denver's game against New England on Sunday night as well as the game at San Diego on Dec. 6, at the very least.

Kubiak had already said Osweiler was his starter this week

when the Broncos (8-2) host the unbeaten Patriots (10-0). That was both a reflection of Osweiler's performance and Manning's health. Osweiler threw for 250 yards, two TDs and no interceptions at Chicago - Denver's first game without a turnover all season.

Manning will be able to attend meetings and some workouts this week, Kubiak said. He had excused Manning from practices and meetings last

And his career-low 67.6

passer rating is lower than Tim Tebow's 72.9 in 2011 that forced GM John Elway to go after Manning in free agency in 2012.

On Monday, Kubiak blasted as "totally false" a report after the Broncos beat the Bears that Manning plans to play in 2016 even if it's not for the Broncos.

"For there to be any rumors or anything he said that his mind-set is anywhere other than getting healthy and helping this football team, I can tell you is totally false," Kubiak said.

"I visit with this guy on a regular basis and we talk all the time. I can tell you his mind-set is a day at a time trying to get healthy and all those things and help his football (team). That's all he talks to me about. That's all that's important to him right now."

Keenum not cleared but Rams hopeful about Wednesday

ST. LOUIS (AP)—St. Louis Rams quarterback Case Keenum did not practice Tuesday while going through the NFL's concussion protocol, and coach Jeff Fisher is hopeful he'll be cleared Wednesday.

Fisher said Keenum, injured late in Sunday's loss at Baltimore when the back of his helmet banged into the turf after a hit, was at Rams Park studying film and participating in meetings on Tuesday.

"We're hopeful tomorrow he'll be ready to do some things outside," Fisher said. "So he's feeling pretty well, actually."

The NFL is investigating whether correct concussion protocol was followed when Keenum was injured. Fisher said team doctors and trainers were involved in a conference call Tuesday night to discuss possible tweaks to the system. That call was led by the co-chairman of the NFL Head, Neck and Spine Committee, Dr. Hunt Batjer; Dr. Betsy Nabel, the NFL's chief medical adviser; Dr. Robert Heyer, president of the NFL Physician Society; and Dr. Thom Mayer of the NFL Players Association.

The review also involves the ATC spotter, game officials, NFL medical advisers and the union. Fisher said Monday it was important to "get it straightened out," but backed off Tuesday.

Fisher didn't learn Keenum had sustained a concussion until after his post-game news conference. Fisher is a member of the Competition Committee, but said that was irrele-

vant in this situation.

"There will be a conference call, then they'll adjust the procedures ever so slightly, I guess, on game day," Fisher said earlier Tuesday. Regarding suggestions for improvement, he said "I can't go there because there's too many entities discussing their opinions and exactly what happened."

Fisher believes the independent sideline observer decided not to get involved because Rams trainer Reggie Scott came on the field to examine Keenum with 1:04 remaining and the game tied at 13.

But Fisher inferred Scott had to make a snap judgment when told to return to the sideline, also noting that the play clock had been started. If Scott had questioned Case further on the field, Fisher had been concerned the Rams might have gotten charged with their final timeout.

Nick Foles would regain his starting spot this week at Cincinnati if Keenum can't come back. Foles was benched after several poor outings and Keenum wasn't much of an improvement, going 12 for 26 for just 136 yards and one touchdown.

Rookie Sean Mannion, a third-round pick, is the third-string quarterback.

After the hit by Timmy Jernigan on a busted play, Keenum's hands immediately went toward his head. He initially resisted when offensive lineman Garrett Reynolds tried to lift him to his feet.

Foles noticed and took a few warmup throws before play continued.

Warriors make NBA history as first team to start season 16-0



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The defending champion Golden State Warriors set the record for best start in NBA history at 16-0, as Stephen Curry had 24 points and nine assists in a 111-77 rout of the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

With their coach sidelined, the Warriors surpassed the 15-0 starts by the Washington Capitals of 1948-49 and 1993-94 Houston Rockets.

Confetti streamed down when the final buzzer sounded and Golden State's players barely celebrated.

Kobe Bryant shot 1 of 14 for just four points, matching the worst-shooting performance of his career in a game where he had at least one basket. The Lakers dropped to 2-12 with the second-worst record in the NBA.

Draymond Green added 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists as the Warriors extended their franchise-record home winning streak to 27 games with coach Steve Kerr watching from behind the scenes while recovering from complications following two back surgeries.

Interim Luke Walton is leading the way, and it might have been a little sweeter to set the record against the Lakers franchise he helped win two titles.

Golden State became the sixth team in NBA history to win 20 consecutive regular-season games, a streak dating to last season. The Suns have the next shot at stopping this incredible start when the Warriors visit Phoenix on Friday night.

Pacers 123, Wizards 106
In Washington, Paul George scored a season-high 40 points and made seven 3-pointers, part of a franchise-record 19 by Indiana in a victory over Washington.

C.J. Miles added 32 points, his most since joining the Pacers before the start of last season, as Indiana won for the ninth time in 11 games.

Miles was 8 of 9 from beyond the arc, and George also missed only once from deep.

The Pacers finished 73.1 percent (19 of 26) from 3-point range, crushing their previous season high of 44.4 percent (12 of 27).

Gary Neal scored 23 points off the bench for the Wizards, whose three-game winning streak was broken.

Grizzlies 110, Mavericks 96

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley scored 21 points, Jeff Green added 19 and seven Memphis players reached double figures in a victory over Dallas.

Marc Gasol had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, which won its fifth in the last six games. Matt Barnes and Mario Chalmers added 14 points apiece, and JaMychal Green

contributed 13.

Raymond Felton and J.J. Barea each scored 16 points and tried to pull the Mavericks back into the game in the fourth quarter. Dirk Nowitzki finished with 14 points and Zaza Pachulia had 13, both also grabbing 10 rebounds.

Wesley Matthews had 11 points and Deron Williams finished with 10 as Dallas lost its second straight.

Hawks 121, Celtics 97

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 25 points, Jeff Teague added 16 and Atlanta beat Boston.

Atlanta had dropped four of five and was coming off a loss Saturday at Cleveland in which coach Mike Budenholzer was ejected and subsequently fined \$25,000 for bumping into referee Ben Taylor.

The Hawks essentially put the game out of reach with an 18-3 run that made it 100-80 with 6:20 remaining on Teague's three-point play.

Avery Bradley had 15 of his 25 points in the first half for Boston, which has dropped three of four. Isaiah Thomas scored 14 points as the Celtics, who began the game ranked ninth in opponent scoring, allowed a season high in points.

Bulls 93, Trail Blazers 88

In Portland, Oregon, Jimmy Butler scored 22 points, Derrick Rose added 17 in his return to the lineup and Chicago held off Portland.

Rose had missed two games with a left ankle injury. His floating jumper stretched Chicago's lead to 78-65 early in the fourth quarter, but Portland rallied within 78-76 on Ed Davis' tip shot.

Damian Lillard missed a 3-pointer to tie it for Portland with 2:25 left, then missed the second of a pair of free throws with 20.7 seconds left that would have also pulled the Blazers into a tie.

Lillard finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, but shot 4 of 22 from the field. CJ McCollum added 18 points.

Clippers 111, Nuggets 94

In Denver, Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan each scored 18 points as Los Angeles beat Denver to end a three-game losing streak.

Jordan finished with 11 rebounds and four blocks, while Griffin had 10 rebounds. Chris Paul had 15 points and 10 assists to give the Clippers (7-7) three players with double-doubles.

The Clippers, who hadn't been under .500 this far into a season under coach Doc Rivers, made eight 3-pointers after coming into the game at 31.3 percent.

Daniil Gallinari led Denver with 20 points and had a career-high 18 rebounds.

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Iannetta, Mariners agree to \$4.25M 1-year deal

 **SEATTLE**
(AP)—Chris Iannetta has a new team and a chance to prove last season was a disappointing outlier in his career.

Iannetta agreed to a \$4.25 million, one-year contract with the Mariners on Monday with the expectation he will be Seattle's starting catcher heading into 2016. The deal includes \$1.75 million in performance bonuses next season and a 2017 club option for \$4.25 million that could become guaranteed at \$6 million.

"I think it was an opportunity to get back and in a situation to play and prove that this past year was just a down year," Iannetta said on a conference call.

To clear a spot on the 40-man roster, Seattle designated catcher John Hicks for assignment.

Iannetta spent the past four seasons with the Los Angeles Angels but struggled at the plate



In this Tuesday, July 21, 2015 file photo, Los Angeles Angels catcher Chris Iannetta throws out Minnesota Twins' Trevor Plouffe, after striking out during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif.

base. Even relative to a rough year on batting average, the other numbers all stacked up," Dipoto said. "As a result, I think Chris is a good candidate for a bounce-

back season offensively."

Seattle will be the third team for Iannetta, who started his career with Colorado.

Dipoto also said the Mariners hope to re-sign free agent right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma, who turned down the club's qualifying offer. Iwakuma was slowed by injuries last season, but made 20 starts and was 9-5 with a 3.54 ERA. He threw the first no-hitter of his career.

Iannetta can earn \$150,000

each for 75, 80, 85, 115 and 120 games started next year and \$200,000 apiece for 90, 95, 100, 105 and 110.

His 2017 option would become guaranteed at \$6 million if he starts 100 games in 2016 and does not end the season on the disabled list with an injury to his right elbow, back or either hip. If Seattle exercises the option at \$4.25 million, Iannetta could earn the same performance bonuses in 2017.

this year, hitting .188 with 10 homers and 34 RBIs. The batting average was the lowest of his career. A year earlier, Iannetta hit .252 in 108 games.

New Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto saw Iannetta up close the past few seasons with the Angels and said the addition provides "depth at a critical position."

It also takes some stress off Mike Zunino behind the plate. The No. 3 pick in the 2012 amateur draft was sent to the instructional league late last season in the hope of rebuilding his swing. Zunino batted .174 with 132 strikeouts in 112 games.

"I think Chris has always drawn deep at-bats and gets on

general manager Al Avila said. "He is coming off of a solid offensive season in 2015 and brings speed and athleticism to our club."

The Tigers took Maybin with the 10th overall pick in the 2005 draft, one spot ahead of Andrew McCutchen. Maybin made his major league debut for Detroit in 2007 before being traded to the Marlins.

He never became a star, but he's still only 28. Maybin hit .267 with 10 homers, 59 RBIs and 23 steals for the Braves

this year. Avila says manager Brad Ausmus will determine Maybin's role during spring training.

Anthony Gose was Detroit's primary starter in center field last season, but the team could use some help in left after trading Yoenis Cespedes at the end of July.

Krol made 33 relief appearances for the Tigers in 2015, going 2-3 with a 5.79 ERA. Speier pitched in 33 games this year for Class A West Michigan, going 4-2 with a 2.86 ERA.

School's Dominick Torres was third (13:46).

Tanapag Middle School's Taiga Sato (14:04), SCS' Mateo Guerrero (15:47), and Whispering Palms School's Blake Minter (15:49) finished fourth to sixth place, respectively.

Seung Jin Paik of SCS (6:27), Raven Francisco of Hopwood (6:32), ACS' Mike Hou (6:35) and Frederick Guintu (6:44), William S. Reyes Elementary School's Leeroy Villagomez (6:49), and Richard Steele of MCS (6:52) complete the Top 6 in the U11 boys.

SCS' Isaiah Aleksenko, as expected, ruled the U9 division with a 6:16 time in completing

the 1-mile run. Teammate Kaito Rechurchur settled for second (6:55), while Grace Christian Academy's Tekru Jim was third (7:20).

Ruben Guerrero of MCS (7:30), and SCS' Jesus Sablan (7:42) and Derick Kwon (8:21) completes the Top 6.

Kengo Sato of GCA (8:13), WSR's Cojoro Kaga (8:17), and SCS' Alfred Baek (8:20), Hiro Rechurchur (8:37), Drei Camacho (9:20), and Jose Sablan (10:22) were the Top 6 runners in the U7 age group.

SCS also won the team trophies in the U7, U9, U11, and U13 divisions, while WSR came in second in the U11.

and beat teammates Joel Fruit (6) and Cosmos Kim (5).

Matansa's Ryu Tanzawa (4), Tan Holdings' Junsik Kim (3), Matansa's Chad Shankweiler (3), MP United's Keeanu Diaz (2), Tan Holdings' Anthony Fruit (2), MP United's Moris Villanueva (2), Tan Holdings' Hobin Lee (2), and MP United's Sunjoon Tenorio and Kennedy Izuka (2) were the other players who scored more than one goal in the fall season.

In the U15 division, which will play its two remaining games this Saturday, Tenorio and Tan Holdings' 1's Jonah

Pohl are tied for the lead with 11 goals apiece. Three other MP United players are in the Top 5 with Michael Lee earning eight and Edwin Kim and Oliver Lee notching six each.

Kanoa's Andreau Omelau and Tan Holdings' 1's Emmanuel Aniana posted five apiece, while Tan Holdings' 2's Taka Borja (4), Paire's Dai Podziewski (4), MP United's Leon Cody (3), Alex Park (3), and Joshua Abragan (3), Matansa's Jeremy Ngiraked, and Tan Holdings' 1's Rico Roy Reyes and Mark Esalan were the other multiple goal scorers in the division.

Athletics add versatile lefty Rich Hill on \$6M deal

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—In a matter of months, Rich Hill's remarkable path to rejoining a rotation took him from Washington's farm system to independent ball on Long Island and then back to Boston to start in September.

Hill moved to the right side of the rubber and adjusted his arm angle along the way—and he just landed himself a nice new contract because of those significant tweaks, which might mean little to someone outside the game.

The left-hander agreed to a \$6 million, one-year contract with the Oakland Athletics on Friday, giving the small-budget franchise a versatile, experienced pitcher who can handle a variety of roles.

Yet they're counting on him as a starter. Hill chose the A's because he gets to start again.

"It was really a personal journey for myself getting back to what I always wanted to do, being a starting pitcher," said Hill, who will be reunited with his former Boston pitching coach, Curt Young.

In another move Friday designed to help the pitching staff, Oakland acquired reliever Liam Hendriks from the Toronto Blue Jays for right-hander Jesse Chavez.

Hill took his physical in the Bay Area and the team an-

nounced the deal before he was expected to fly back to Boston in the afternoon. Hill became the second free agent to switch teams after infielder Cliff Pennington joined the Los Angeles Angels earlier in the week.

The 35-year-old lefty began the 2015 season with Washington's Triple-A club in Syracuse before going 2-1 with a 1.55 ERA in four starts and 29 innings with the Boston Red Sox as a September call-up. He had 36 strikeouts and five walks.

"Honestly, it started when I was throwing bullpens back home. I could feel the consistency, I could feel the ball coming out of my hand the way I wanted it to," Hill said. "Every outing built off the prior outing. That was really where that came from. It was always there—it was getting the opportunity and running with it. The confidence has always been there, the ability has always been there. For me it was no surprise what happened in September."

General manager David Forst and executive vice president of baseball operations Billy Beane learned the importance of pitching depth in recent seasons with a rash of injuries in both the rotation and bullpen.

"There's probably not a better example than 2015 in our case of needing as many start-

ing pitchers as you can possibly get," Forst said.

Hill has a 26-23 career record and 4.54 ERA in parts of 11 seasons as a starter and reliever for the Chicago Cubs, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, the Angels and Yankees.

"You can never have too much pitching," manager Bob Melvin said. "He has had success as a starter and that's how we see him. He was terrific in his late-season starts and it's nice to have another veteran guy."

After going 2-2 with a 2.91 ERA in 25 relief appearances with Syracuse, Hill was released June 24 and then made two starts with the Long Island Ducks of the independent Atlantic League before signing a minor league deal with Boston on Aug. 14.

The A's sure noticed the changes, as did other clubs who expressed interest.

Hill said Oakland gave him "respect" from the start of the process and that meant a lot in his decision.

Tribune Sports Scores

MLB STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	9	6	.600	—
New York	8	7	.533	1
Boston	7	7	.500	1½
Brooklyn	3	11	.214	5½
Philadelphia	0	15	.000	9

Southeast Division

Miami	9	4	.692	—
Atlanta	10	6	.625	½
Charlotte	8	6	.571	1½
Washington	6	5	.545	2
Orlando	6	8	.429	3½

Central Division

Cleveland	11	3	.786	—
Chicago	9	4	.692	1½
Indiana	9	5	.643	2
Detroit	7	7	.500	4
Milwaukee	6	8	.429	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	11	3	.786	—
Dallas	9	6	.600	2½
Memphis	8	7	.533	3½
Houston	5	9	.357	6
New Orleans	3	11	.214	8

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	9	6	.600	—
Utah	6	7	.462	2
Minnesota	6	8	.429	2½
Denver	6	9	.400	3
Portland	6	10	.375	3½

Pacific Division

Golden State	16	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	7	7	.500	8
L.A. Clippers	7	7	.500	8
Sacramento	5	10	.333	10½
L.A. Lakers	2	12	.143	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEAGUE

From Page 32

scored with her seven, followed by Paire's Guinevere Borja (4) and the former's teammate Maaya Sato (4). Matansa's Pin-yarat Shankweiler, Leisha Sally, and Bernadette Horey and Tan Holdings' Mary Kay Alferos and Krizel Mae Tuazon logged three each, while Paire's Renita Fleming and Shirley's' Jerlyn Castillo, De Jana Muna, and Jobelle Tabuena collected two apiece.

In the boys U18 division, Tan Holdings swept the Top 3 with Sean Perez bagging 12 goals

Tsunami Saipan ready for competitions



Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a photo during a break in their training session at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort pool early this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members are up for the various competitions scheduled in the 2015-2016 season despite starting their training sessions late due to Typhoon Soudelor.

The club's swimmers just resumed their practice at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week since the facility was closed last Aug. 2 after sustaining significant damage from the typhoon. With the 50-meter pool unavailable, Tsunami Saipan members had to look for alternative options and were fortunate to get permission to use the facility of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

"Laolao kindly provided us their

pool for our practice sessions. We practiced there four to five times a week so we are ready for competitions this season," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

"We really appreciate Laolao general manager Kim Chang Ho for giving us the wonderful environment for our swimming practice," Kimura added.

The Tsunami Saipan coach also said

Jonny Sablan is MGA November Ace



Marianas Golfers Association members enjoy a morning round of golf in this file photo taken during the September Ace of the Month last Oct. 3 at the Greg Norman layout Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Jonny Sablan survived a bogey-filled day to clinch the Marianas Golfers Association's November Ace of the Month held last Nov. 7 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course.

Sablan fired rounds of 46 and 44 for a gross score of 90 and with a 15 handicap handed him with a 3-over 75. He ended up tied with Joey Dela Cruz, who also had a 75 after the seven-handicapper's 82 gross.

Dela Cruz started at the back nine where he ended up with a 1-over 37 but had a horrible round at the front with a 9-over 45 that had Sablan forcing the tie.

The MGA vice president lost to Sablan after the one-hole playoff at No. 9.

Sablan bogeyed holes No. 2, 8, and 15, double bogeyed in No. 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 18, had a triple bogey in No. 16, and quadruple-bogeyed the par-4 No. 5 that stained his birdies at 14 and 17. He also eagled the par-5 No. 3 and shot even pars in No. 1, 7, 12, and 13.

Ned Norita, the October Ace monthly winner, came in third with a 76 be-

hind a gross score of 84 (40-44) and an eight handicap.

J.J. Atalig (president), Geri Dela Cruz (secretary), James Benavente (treasurer), Chandler DeLoatch (tournament director), Bill Camacho, Aaron Benavente, Tony Guerrero, Jenny Hegland, Carl Hocog, Greg Sablan Jr., Jack Salas, Jesse Seman, Dung Tenorio, and Calvin Yamagishi were the other MGA officers and members that played.

Nate Camacho, Kang Seung Woo, and Tony Satur were the guest players.

Atalig led the closest to the pin winners in No. 3, while James Benavente, Greg Sablan Jr., and Tenorio duplicated the feat in No. 7, 13, and 17.

Jonny Sablan now joins other Ace of the Month winners Harry Nakamura (January), Yamagishi (February), Seman (March), Erlinda Naputi (April), Hegland (May), DeLoatch (June), Jay Muna (July), Geri Dela Cruz (August), Louie Tilipao (September), and Norita (October).

The hunt for the final spot on the Ace of the Month, December, will continue on Dec. 5, Saturday, also at the Greg Norman-designed Laolao east course. Showtime is at 8am while tee off starts at 9am.

Dec. 5 will also be the first day of MGA's Ace of Aces Championship where Atalig is reminding all monthly winners to come on time for the proper pairing.

"If they should be late there is a possibility that they'll be disqualified from the Ace of Aces championship," said Atalig in an email.

Jokers likely to rule Tuesday billiards



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Jokers Destroyers are all smiles after beating the Jonny's Titans in last Tuesday night's games in the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball league. From left, Rico Montano, Cesar Sangalang, team captain Nolan Cultura, and Jeff Garcia.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If the two Jonny's teams won't make their move, any of the three squads supported by Jokers Bar & Grill may end up as the champion of the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

The Jokers Destroyers are currently on top of the heap after games last Tuesday night with a 32-20 won-loss record followed closely by the IT&E Voyagers' 31-21 slate. Two games behind at third are the Docomo Hustlers (29-23).

The StraightBlackBall, the fourth Jokers team, are tied with the Jonny's Crazy 8 with 22-30 cards, while the Jonny's Titans complete the six-team field at 20-32.

The Crazy 8 and the Titans still have 16 weeks left to make their move if they hope to dislodge the leaders on top.

The Destroyers last Tuesday made short work of the Titans behind the brilliant games of Rico Montano and Cesar Sangalang, who combined for eight of their team's nine wins.

they will have their last training session at the Laolao facility this Saturday, while regular practices will continue at the Marpi pool as they prepare for on and off-island competitions.

The club will participate in two Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-sanctioned events in January and May and a several other local competitions, while it will also send representatives to tournaments in Japan and Guam next year.

"We already decided to participate in Tokyo Junior Sprint and Guam Championships. Also, I'm planning to have a swim training camp in Japan next summer," Kimura said.

The Guam competitions are scheduled for April and May, while the Tokyo Junior Sprint is usually held in the first quarter of the year. Early this year, Tsunami Saipan sent returnees Kaito and Ryuto Yanai and Miku Tammy, Sophia Gauran, Juhn Tenorio, Nanaka Watanabe, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Hans Xu, and Ashley Dangol to the Tokyo Sprint. Kensuki Kimura, Kai Staal, and Angel De Jesus also represented the club in the past editions of the annual event.

Their team up also resulted into two wins in the Partner's 8-ball event with Montano going 2-1 in the singles while Sangalang went 2-0.

Nolan Cultura, the team captain, and Jeff Garcia were the other members of the Destroyers.

The Titans are composed of Patrick Cepeda, Ray Matsunaga, John Reyes, Randy Sablan, and Jack Thornsaket.

The Voyagers also scored a 9-4 win over the Crazy 8 while the Hustlers trounced the StraightBlackBall, 8-5.

Action in the Tuesday League continues on Dec. 1 with the top-ranked Destroyers taking on the Voyagers, the current second placer. The Hustlers will be hosting the Titans, while the StraightBlackBall will visit the Crazy 8 in the other scheduled matches.

There will be no Thursday League games today, Thanksgiving Day. Matches will resume on Dec. 3 with the anticipated match up between co-leaders National and Homeboyz.

The Rack 'N' Roll will also host the WildBoyz, while Team SCS will go up against the Wild Wild West in the other schedule games.

The Tuesday League will run for four months with the final week to be held on March 15, while the Thursday League will end on April 7, 2016.



Johnny Manziel
benched by
Browns for off-
field behavior
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Tsunami Saipan
ready for
competitions

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wang leads boys Cross Country winners



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Caleb Wang showed the way in Agape Christian School's dominating performance to lead the list of winners in the boys division of last Saturday's All Schools Cross Country Championships at the Airport Field.

He was the top runner in the U18 age group as he completed the 3.2-mile run (5.1 kilometers) in 20:20, which was 19 seconds slower of his winning time of 20:01 in the final leg of the annual race for private and public school students.

Wang, the 14th overall and the top U18 runner in this year's Saipan Marathon, also had times of 20:35 and 21:38 in the first and second legs that he



also won. He skipped the third leg.

Alan Zhao, who ran the half marathon course in Saipan's Festival of Runs, was only nine seconds behind his teammate at 20:29,

while Jason Wang, not related to Caleb, came in third at 21:19.

Samuel Hu also of ACS (21:55), Saipan Southern High School's Djay Ong (22:21), and ACS' Bai Lin Chen (24:02) completed the Top 6 finishers.

ACS also won the team award in the U18 division and added the U15 trophy after fielding the most number of runners in the age group with Mt. Carmel School coming in second.

MCS' Christian Villacrusis, however, was the top boys U15 runner. He ruled all four legs and completed the 2.1-mile

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Judith's gets last finals berth



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Judith's Hoy Boys' Prince Factor, center, splits the defense of Ferrera Builders' Joshua Leyco, left, and Jun Javier during their semis game in the U18 division of the San Antonio caging last Sunday at the San Antonio court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Judith's Hot Boys set a finals date against GMI Market after outclassing Ferrera Builders, 65-59, in their semis game in the U18 division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Sunday night at the San Antonio court.

Flores' fourth-period explosion was timely, as Judith's started the final frame behind by 6, 36-40. He also drew some help from Mike Espinosa, who contributed 7 in the pivotal quarter after making only 4 points in the first three

Sunday's championship game after playing a solid game in the fourth quarter. The lanky forward knocked in 12 of his game-high 17 points in the payoff canto, including Judith's last 6 points that spelled the difference in the closely fought semis match.

Adrian Flores helped Judith's book the second finals ticket and advance to this

See JUDITH'S on Page 30

3 earn most goals in NMIFA fall league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club's Ian Maniago, Matansa's Lyka Sally, and Tan Holdings' Sean Perez recorded the most goals in their respective divisions in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League.

In the co-ed U12A category,

Maniago collected 11 goals to narrowly edge beat MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki, who bagged 10 in six games. Maniago caught up with Miyawaki after earning four goals apiece in Kanoa's last two games (against MP United and Paire). Miyawaki

ki also notched four goals in their penultimate match (versus Kanoa), but lost to Maniago after scoring only two goals in their last match against Tan Holdings.

Tan Holdings' Taka Borja joined Maniago and Miyawaki in the Top 3 with former gaining nine goals, while MP United's Dylan Cho and Paire's Kaden Church had seven apiece to tie at No. 4, and Kanoa's Jaydee Jose was ranked fifth with her six goals.

Other players who scored multiple goals in the shortened season were Kanoa's Merrick Toves (3), Tan Holdings' Kohtaro Goto (2), MP United's Reginald Pascual (2), Paire's Blake Mister (2) and Dominic Torres (2), and Tan Holdings' Anthony Berganca (2). Kanoa's John Mark Anastacio and Brian Lubao, MP United's Jon Villagomez, Paire's Marty Taisacan, and Tan Holdings' Luis Claridades tallied one goal each.

In the girls U15 division, there was also a close fight between Matansa's Lyka Sally and Tan Holdings' Chloe Salvosa with the former winning, 11-9. Sally gained a lot of cushion in the battle for the most goals right at the opening of the season as she registered six goals in Matansa's 14-0 demolition of Tan Holdings.

MP United's Gilliam Villagomez had the third-most goals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa FC players have the numbers as they battle MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki for possession during their co-ed U12A division game in the NMIFA youth league early this month at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

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